

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Vehicle Paint Facility, Fort Eustis.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT J. WITTMAN.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: U.S. Department of the Army, Military Construction.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Newport News.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2400 Washington Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607.

Description of Request: \$3.90 million to construct a Vehicle Paint Facility at Fort Eustis with paint booths to accommodate the preparation and painting of vehicles, equipment, components, helicopters, and modular causeway sections. This project is required to support the preparation for and painting of approximately 1600 pieces of vehicular equipment. Most of this equipment belongs to the 7th Sustainment Brigade, which is one of the Army's most frequently deployed units. If this project is not provided, Fort Eustis will incur negative mission impacts and will not meet Virginia Environmental Quality requirements. Current painting operations will have an elevated cost because existing facilities cannot accommodate oversized equipment. The facility is critical to rapidly prepare equipment for deploying units in conjunction with time phased deployment schedules. In addition, the Deputy Secretary of the Army (Installations and Housing) certifies that this project has been considered for joint use potential.

The estimated contract cost is approximately \$3.0 million with an estimated contingency percent of 5 percent, supervision, inspection and overhead costs at an estimated 5.7 percent, design/build design costs at an estimated 4 percent and additional expenses for installed equipment.

This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the U.S. Department of the Army, Military Construction account and the Department of the Army is the recipient of these funds. There is no matching requirement.

Marine Corps Base Quantico OCS Headquarters Facility.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT J. WITTMAN.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: U.S. Department of the Navy, Military Construction.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Member initiated request.

Description of Request: \$5.98 million for construction of the Marine Corps Base Quantico OCS Headquarters Facility located at Quantico, Virginia. The funding would be used to construct a single-story administrative headquarters building to consolidate Head-

quarters functions at Officer Candidate School (OCS). The facility will provide workspaces for 75 Marines responsible for coordinating the administrative, educational, operational and logistics support required to conduct Officer Candidate training at OCS. The existing facility was built in 1945 and will be demolished once new construction is complete. Preventive and corrective maintenance, both routine and emergency, take place on a daily basis at the existing facility, consuming material, money and manpower.

This project is listed on the USMC FY09 Unfunded Programs List. The entity to receive funding for this project is the United States Navy.

The estimated contract cost for the 13,250 square foot facility is approximately \$4 million with an estimated contingency percent of 5 percent, supervision, inspection and overhead costs at an estimated 5.7 percent, design/build design costs at an estimated 4 percent and additional expenses for installed equipment. The funds will be used for the OCS headquarters construction, technical operating manuals, information systems, anti-terrorism force protection, and supporting facilities (construction features, electrical, mechanical, paving and site improvements, demolition and environmental mitigation.)

There is no matching requirement. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the U.S. Department of the Navy Military Construction account.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND HAROLD GILLENY

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Harold S. Gilleney on the celebration of his 100th birthday on August 4, 2008.

Reverend Gilleney was born on August 4, 1908 to William and Ella Gilleney. He had one sister, Vera. In 1942, Reverend Gilleney married Ida Casey, and together they had one child, later welcoming into the family two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. During his lifetime, Reverend Gilleney has lived in many places and served in the Air Force as a Designated Spotter in World War II. He has served in Presbyterian churches in Mountain View, WY, Hanson, NE, Zwingle, IA, Mount Vernon, IA, Ft. Des Moines, IA, Grimes, IA, Westminster Presbyterian in Ottumwa, IA, and Plymouth Congregational Church in Ottumwa. He is still Pastor Emeritus at Westminster Presbyterian in Ottumwa. Reverend Gilleney currently lives at the Eastern Star Masonic Home in Boone, Iowa where he is on the Resident Council.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past one hundred years. Since Reverend Gilleney's birth we have revo-

lutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Reverend Gilleney has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-four Governors of Iowa. In his lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Reverend Harold S. Gilleney for reaching this milestone of a birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Reverend Gilleney in the United States Congress, and I wish him happiness and health in his future years.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman TIM MURPHY.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations bill.

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Pennsylvania National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, USA.

Description of Request: Appropriation of \$3,250,000 for planning and design of the Combined Support Maintenance Shop in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, is included in the bill. This new complex will consist of approximately 130,000 square feet of administrative and supply areas, and nine general purpose and 12 specialty maintenance work bays to regionally maintain Army National Guard ground vehicles located in Western Pennsylvania. The project will allow consolidation and closing of four inadequate maintenance facilities in the Pittsburgh area. The Army National Guard and the Commonwealth will benefit by reduced operating and maintenance costs associated with the closure of four inefficient facilities as well as utilizing an Energy Management control system. Soldiers will benefit by being provided a state-of-the-art, efficiently functioning work space to maintain combat vehicles.

EARMARK DISCLOSURE

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I wish to make the following disclosure in accordance with the new Republican Earmark Transparency Standards requiring Members to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

place a statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to a floor vote on a bill that includes earmarks they have requested, describing how the funds will be spent and justifying the use of Federal taxpayer funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman STEVE KING.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: MilCon, Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Iowa Air National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7700 NW Beaver Drive, Johnston, Iowa, 50131.

Description of Request: Appropriation of \$5.6 million for the construction of a new Vehicle Maintenance Facility and remodeling of the existing Communications Facility located at the 133rd Test Squadron in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Updating facilities at the 133rd Test Squadron is of the utmost importance and highest priority for the Iowa National Guard. This project is approved on the U.S. Air Force Future Year Defense Plan (FYDP), and has been assigned the number HEMT039066. The facility is significantly short of space due to the expansion of the unit's mission, manning and resources. Since it is the only unit designated to test future Command and Control (C2) projects for the U.S. Air Force, the performance of the 133rd Test Squadron is vital to Air Force missions. A detailed financial plan based on form DD 1391 required by the Department of Defense for military construction projects follows.

COST ESTIMATE

ITEM	U/M	Quantity	Unit cost	Cost (\$000)
Vehicle maintenance/comm training facility.	SF	32,369	.....	4,171
Vehicle maintenance area	SF	7,000	210	(1,470)
Age addition to comm area ..	SF	2,600	186	(484)
Upgrade communications area.	SF	22,769	91	(2,072)
Anti-terrorism/force protection measures.	SF	32,369	2	(65)
LEED Certification	LS	.....	.....	( 80)
Supporting facilities	LS	.....	.....	864
Pavements	LS	.....	.....	( 115)
Utilities	LS	.....	.....	( 150)
Site improvements/parking ...	LS	.....	.....	( 100)
Communications support	LS	.....	.....	( 100)
Pre-wired work stations	LS	.....	.....	( 130)
Temporary trailers	LS	.....	.....	( 220)
Demolition/asbestos removal	SF	3,270	15	(49)
Subtotal .....	.....	.....	.....	5,035
Contingency (5%) .....	.....	.....	.....	252
Total contract cost .....	.....	.....	.....	5,287
Supervision, inspection and overhead (6%).	.....	.....	.....	317
Total request .....	.....	.....	.....	5,604
Total request (rounded) .....	.....	.....	.....	5,600

10. Description of Proposed Construction: New Construction: Reinforced concrete foundation and floor slab with steel-framed masonry walls and sloped roof structure. Includes overhead crane/hoist, all utilities, pavements, fire protection, site improvements, and support. All interior wall, ceilings, interior finishes and pre-wired work stations. Alteration: Rearrange and extend interior walls and utilities. Provide anti-terrorism force protection measures. Demolish three buildings (304 SM) and landscape the site. Air conditioning: 60 Tons.

11. Requirement: 32,369 SF Adequate: 0 SF Substandard: 22,769 SF

Project: Vehicle Maintenance and Communications Training Facility (Current Mission).

Requirement: The base requires an adequately sized, properly configured, and environmentally safe vehicle maintenance facility

for operations and training. Vehicles to be repaired and maintained include cars, trucks, sweepers, and snowplows. Functional areas consist of maintenance bays, paint bay, office area, parts/tool storage, battery shop, vehicle dispatch, fuel dispensing facility and wash rack. An adequately sized and properly configured facility is required for the operations, maintenance, and training in support of a 132-personnel combat communications squadron responsible for tactical communications—electronics systems. Functional areas include the command section, communication systems (i.e. satellite, base, and network), communications center, combat support, secure storage, deployment control center, classrooms, physical fitness center, dining area, and medical training.

Current Situation: The vehicle maintenance functions are accomplished in a facility that has reached the end of its useful life. Facility maintenance and repair of the mechanical and electrical systems are no longer cost effective due to the lack of replacement parts. The facility is significantly short of maintenance, office, and training space due to the expansion of the unit's manning and resources over the years. Maintenance and repair operations on larger vehicles must be done outside because they do not fit in the small bays. The facility has numerous safety, health, and environmental hazards. The communications and electronics facility portion of this project will reconfigure and renovate existing spaces while adding to the complex to alleviate facility shortfalls. Mission accomplishment and Status of Readiness and Training System (SORTS) levels are degraded as there is no adequate space to properly store civil engineering equipment, generators, and equipment assets to be deployable within response time criteria given winter conditions. The 133rd is accomplishing part of the test mission requirements in a facility on the other side of the airport driveway. This requires them to take valuable time and manpower to get to the support functions such as medical and supply items. The area is 12 percent short of the required space needed to support the mission. Several Control and Reporting Center (CRC) testing events have been located in building 102, which has been identified to be demolished. This facility requires roof repairs and electrical and mechanical upgrades to meet code requirements. The space is not functionally setup to house a test squadron, which causes interruptions in training/testing requirements. They do not have the space to test, maintain, train and repair equipment that they are required to support. The office space is not properly configured. The Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) facility (building 101) is not functionally efficient as an AGE shop with its current layout. Equipment is stored outside due to lack of covered storage space. The administrative area is congested and not properly configured. The existing forced air heat system is inefficient and requires repair. The existing floor drains are not connected to an oil water separator. The majority of the base infrastructure system is over 40 years old and has been upgraded only as part of new construction. Parts of the system that have not been upgraded are deteriorated due to age.

Impact If Not Provided: Operations and training suffer from lack of up-to-date and adequate facilities. The overcrowded and antiquated facility seriously degrades the unit's

capability to maintain a safe, operationally ready fleet, and severely limits the unit's ability to train. Continued safety and environmental problems with possible violations of Federal and State environmental statutes. Quality of life is negatively impacted affecting morale, recruiting, and retention.

Additional: This project meets the criteria/scope specified in Air National Guard Handbook 321084, "Facility Requirements," and is in compliance with the base master plan. These facilities are "inhabited" buildings and meet the standoff distance requirements. There is minimal threat and the level of protection is low so minimum construction standards have been applied. All known alternatives options were considered during the development of this project. No other option could meet the mission requirements; therefore, no economic analysis was needed or performed. The following buildings will be demolished as a result of this project: 101 (214 SM), 104 (45 SM), and 105 (45 SM) for a total of 304 SM.

Vehicle maintenance area: 7,000 SF = 650 SM.

Age addition to comm area: 2,600 SF = 242 SM.

Upgrade communications area: 22,769 SF = 2,115 SM.

Demolition/asbestos removal: 3,270 SF = 304 SM.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, consistent with Republican transparency standards, the following is a disclosure for each of my requested projects in H.R. 6599, the FY 2009 Military Construction—VA Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: Rep: JAMES T. WALSH
Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction—Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Representing Entity: Hancock Field, Air National Guard, Syracuse, NY.

Address of Requesting Entity: 6001 East Malloy Road, Syracuse, NY 13211.

Description of Request: (1) Include \$5 million for Hancock Field—TFI—Predator IOC/FOC Beddown. This is included in the President's FY 2009 Budget Request. Funding will be used for conversion and upgrade of the Squadron Operations Facility to bed down Predator Operations Center (POC), Ground Control Station (GOC) and squadron operation functions. Rearrange and extend interior walls and utilities. Provide secure areas and Sensitive Compartmentalized Information Facility (SCIF) and alarm systems. Provide sustainable design elements and high efficiency energy-saving features/materials. Provide standby power with uninterruptible power capability. Exterior work includes: Utility support, pavements, site improvements, fire protection, and antiterrorism force protection measures. See DD Form 1391 for project details. (2) Include \$5.4 million for Hancock Field—Upgrade ASOS Facilities (included in FYDP); funding will be used for an addition: Metal framed, masonry slab-on-grade facility with standing seam metal roof, architecturally compatible to

existing facility. Rearrange and extend interior walls and utilities. Provide interior walls, ceilings, and floor coverings and finishes as well as plumbing, electrical, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, alarms, and fire detection and suppression functions. Provide exterior support such as pavements, utilities, site improvements, fire protection and all other necessary work as required. Install utility metering and connect to Direct Digital Control System. See DD Form 1391 for project details.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman LAMAR SMITH.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Department of the Army, Military Construction.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Sam Houston.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1206 Stanley Road, Suite A, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5001.

Description of Request: The funding would be used to construct a Trainee Barracks Complex. This project will provide a 1200 PN barracks, a Battalion Headquarters, Two Company Operation Buildings and a Central Energy Plant.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL T. MOBLEY, SR., UPON HIS COMPLETION OF HIS THIRD TOUR OF DUTY IN AFGHANISTAN

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Paul T. Mobley, Sr., Special Agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Paul Mobley, Sr. has spent the last 24 years serving his country as both a Special Agent for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and a Sergeant for the United States Marine Corps. After graduating from Troy University in 1984, Mr. Mobley began his career as a Patrol Officer with the Dougherty County Police Department. After being promoted to Lieutenant, Mr. Mobley was soon selected to join the prestigious criminal investigative service of the U.S. Navy.

In 1996, Mr. Mobley was assigned to the Computer Crimes Investigation and Operations Unit of the NCIS Gulf Coast Field Office and was instrumental in establishing the unit's first computer forensics lab. Since 2002, he has specialized in cyber-related operations for the counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence communities. For 4 years, Mr. Mobley worked within the U.S. borders making our Nation more secure during the war on terror. While dutifully serving our country as an NCIS Special Agent, he has also faithfully served as

President of the West Florida Home Education Support League and Assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 10 in Pensacola, Florida.

In June of 2006, after completing the High Risk Operations Training Program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA, Mr. Mobley was called to serve his country yet again as an NCIS Special Agent in Kabul, Afghanistan. Mr. Mobley is now serving his third tour of duty in Afghanistan. The Department of the Army recently presented him with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service for "exceptionally meritorious achievement and outstanding civilian service . . . in support of Operation Enduring Freedom." Upon completion of his second deployment, the Department of the Navy presented Mr. Mobley with the Expeditionary Medal from the U.S. Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Mr. Mobley continues to be a courageous soldier and vital part of the war against terrorism.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to honor Mr. Paul T. Mobley, Sr. for his dedicated service to the community of northwest Florida and to the United States of America.

CARIBBEAN CONTEMPLATES SINGLE MARKET ECONOMY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD a July 15, 2008 New York Carib News Op-Ed entitled: "CARICOM Summit on Economic Integration."

One issue that was made very clear as a result of the CARICOM Conference in New York is that there is a call for economic and political unity among the CARICOM states. With dozens of small economies that are similar in makeup and have many of the same goals, it is clear that the need for the Caribbean to form a Single Market Economy would eliminate many barriers to growth in the region.

The Op-Ed speaks to the benefits that this Single Market Economy would have for the growth of the Caribbean and that "the sooner the roadblocks are removed the better it would be for the region as a whole." The Caribbean can possibly experience the growth that Europe continues to experience since their unification. But unity will not be easy as we are dealing with issues of sovereignty and especially fear of an influx of unemployed migrants and the free movement of criminal networks.

CARICOM SUMMIT ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

When Caribbean leaders met recently in New York and Antigua, the effects which democracy and the free and fair expression of the will of the electorate in various Caricom countries in recent months were quite evident.

Several new faces were around the tables since the advent of the year 2007, with new leaders making their presence felt in one way or another in the council of the Caribbean Community. St. Lucia, the Bahamas, Jamaica and Belize have all changed governments while Trinidad and Tobago and its ruling People's National Movement bucked what appeared to be a trend in the wind of change that swept out governments, some with good records in office.

That change was bound to affect the pace of movement towards the establishment of the Single Economy, a vital step in the process towards regional economic integration. After all, new leaders could be expected to get up to speed on such a vital step.

By any measure, the road to the Caribbean Single Market and Economy is being traveled with less enthusiasm and fanfare than two to three years ago. Part of that hard and regrettable fact of life can be attributed to the departure of two enthusiastic advocates of regional togetherness, P.J. Patterson of Jamaica and Owen Seymour Arthur of Barbados. They served the region well but couldn't be expected to continue forever.

That situation may explain the recent criticism level by Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister of St. Vincent & the Grenadines who complained that the implementation of the CSME was taking a back seat to other things.

So that's why it made sense for the leaders at their meeting in Antigua last week to decide to meet before the end of the year to take stock of the CSME.

"The meeting will review the status of the preparation for the Strategic Plan for Regional Development, Member-States' readiness for the implementation of the Single Economy, as well as the role of stakeholders in the implementation of various elements of the CSME," was the way the leaders put it in their joint communiqué issue after the summit. Although lacking in specifics, that statement spoke volumes about where the region stands when it comes to the CSME. It tells us that quite a lot of unfinished business remains to be resolved and it suggests that some countries may be stalling on going forward with the Single Economy. But the sooner the roadblocks are removed the better it would be for the region as a whole.

One thing is clear: Caricom has fostered a sense of togetherness within the region. But the countries must be prepared to give up some of the things they hold dear for the good of the region. One of them is sovereignty. That's how Europe has achieved such progress. The problem is that far too many leaders and countries want to have their cake and eat it too. Without compromises and concessions we aren't going to move forward. Perhaps, the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States should examine their own attitude to the CSME.

Nevertheless, there were some crucial decisions made at the Antigua summit. One of them was the crucial support given to the creation of the Caribbean Public Health Agency that would help bring the various regional health institutions under a single set of operating procedures. It would boost oversight of the management of regional health programs.

Another was the word on the Caricom passport and the movement of people throughout the region. Both Jamaica and Belize have now decided to begin issuing the Caricom passport by the end of the year. That step should reduce many of the hassles people encounter in moving from one territory to another and that's why it is vital for the member-states to put the machinery in place to ensure that the system is well-oiled so that ease of travel would become a reality and not the exception.

A disappointing note was struck however when Caricom devoted only two lines to the question of the free movement of people within the community. The leaders sidestepped the question when they decided to "review the implementation of the free movement of Caricom skilled nationals with a view to determining its ratification or mediation." That's a sure indication of further delay.

There is an understandable level of apprehension about the impact of free movement on individual economies at a time of worries about the global economic picture, the food crisis, skyrocketing oil prices. There is also major worry about the increasing high level of crime.

With the economies of the United States and Britain slowing down and the negative impact that it could have on the vital tourism industry in the Caribbean, countries fear they would be hurt by a declining tourism industry and a steady influx of job seekers from their neighbors. They are also deeply worried about the machinations of regional criminal networks that are far more sophisticated than the police and other security forces.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. MATTHEW AND DIANE DUNASKISS ON THEIR 30TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Matthew and Diane Dunaskiss upon their 30th wedding anniversary.

The couple first met in the Lake Orion School District, where they still reside today. Diane Tench had always wanted to be a teacher, and after graduating from Wayne State University, she became an elementary teacher at Pine Tree Elementary in Lake Orion, Michigan. Her loyalty and commitment to the school grew in the year 2000, as she became principal. Diane Dunaskiss was elected state-wide and is serving her second term on the Wayne State Board of Governors. Matthew Dunaskiss put himself through college by making buttons at local fairs and, later, graduated from the University of Michigan. Mr. Dunaskiss started his career in teaching, but life took him on another path, which led him into politics and small business. Matthew served at the state level as a State Representative and State Senator for over 20 years.

While Matthew and Diane developed their careers, they decided to start a family and had three beautiful children, Jamie, Justin, and Jordan. Through all of their hard work, Mr. Dunaskiss still prepares meals he thinks his wife will enjoy, and Mrs. Dunaskiss still finds time to help her husband out around the house. They have raised their children in a loving, fun, and educational environment, and have shown them, through good times and bad, to support and love your spouse unconditionally.

Madam Speaker, Matthew and Diane have demonstrated their enduring love and commitment to one another for the past thirty years. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. and Mrs. Matthew and Diane Dunaskiss on their anniversary as well as their continued devotion to the community and our country.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit documentation consistent with the new Republican Earmark Standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman ANDER CRENSHAW.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies.

Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Naval Station Mayport.

Address of Receiving Entity: Mayport, Florida.

Description of Request: I have secured \$3,530,000 in funding in H.R. 6599 in the Military Construction, Navy account for an Aircraft Refueling project at Naval Station Mayport, Florida.

This project will construct a two (2) outlet, 300gpm/outlet aircraft direct fueling system to include concrete foundations and slab on grade, 15,000 gallon double wall steel tanks (to be relocated from the existing truck fill stand), concrete containment berms, double walled underground piping, valves, pumps, pressure gauges, filter separators, leak detection monitors for piping and tanks, float switches, double wall steel product recovery tank, emergency shut off valves, fuel quality monitors, pipe vents, fire protection, pressure indicating transmitter and water drainoff system. It would also construct underground double walled fuel transfer line from bulk storage to the direct fueling facility. The project will properly close, by abandoning in place, the existing underground fuel transfer line from the bulk storage to the existing truck fill stand. Closure will include pigging/purging the lines, grout injection of ends, core boring and soil sampling along the fuel transfer line, and submission of a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Closure Assessment Report.

In addition, this project will construct a 150 m2, single story building on a concrete slab on grade and concrete footings. The building and fuel lab will include vinyl floor tile, steel stud/gypsum wallboard walls, hollow core interior steel doors, solid core exterior steel doors, double glazed single hung windows, modified bitumen roofing, interior plumbing, electrical power and lighting wiring, data/communication wiring, fluorescent lighting fixtures, ceramic bathroom tile, HVAC system/distribution/controls and site utilities (electric, water, sanitary, fiber optic communication/data). The project demolishes building 18 (32 m2) and the truck fill stand facility 142 (400 GM).

Naval Station Mayport is a strategic base for the Navy. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2012 but was identified by the base commander as the highest unfunded priority in Fiscal Year 2009.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY ENGINEERED REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of three bills I have introduced today that will provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for all genetically engineered plants, animals, bacteria, and other organisms. The bills will protect our food, environment, and health. They are a common sense precaution to ensure genetically engineered foods do no harm. Genetic engineering is having a serious impact on the food we eat, on the environment, and on farmers. To ensure we can maximize benefits and minimize hazards, Congress must provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for all genetically engineered products.

Current laws, such as our food safety and environmental laws were not written with this technology in mind. Clearer laws are necessary to ensure that these new scientific capabilities and the associated impacts are closely monitored.

Combined, these bills will ensure that consumers are protected, increase food safety, protect farmers' rights and make biotech companies liable for their products.

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

Consumers wish to know whether the food they purchase and consume is a genetically engineered food. Concerns include the potential transfer of allergens into food and other health risks, potential environmental risks associated with the genetic engineering of crops, and religiously and ethically based dietary restrictions. Adoption and implementation of mandatory labeling requirements for genetically engineered food produced in the United States would facilitate international trade. It would allow American farmers and companies to export and appropriately market their products—both genetically engineered and non-genetically engineered—to foreign customers. This bill acknowledges consumers have a right to know what genetically engineered foods they are eating:

Requires food companies to label all foods that contain or are produced with genetically engineered material and requires the FDA to periodically test products to ensure compliance.

Voluntary, non-GE food labels are authorized.

A legal framework is established to ensure the accuracy of labeling without creating significant economic hardship on the food production system.

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SAFETY ACT

Given the consensus among the scientific community that genetic engineering can potentially introduce hazards, such as allergens or toxins; genetically engineered foods need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and cannot be presumed to be generally recognized as safe. The possibility of such hazards dictates a cautious approach to genetically engineered food approvals. However, FDA has glossed over the food safety concerns of genetically engineered foods and not taken steps to ensure the safety of these genetically engineered foods.

A pharmaceutical crop or industrial crop is a plant that has been genetically engineered to produce a medical or industrial product, including human and veterinary drugs. Many of the novel substances produced in pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops are for particular medical or industrial purposes only. These substances are not intended to be incorporated in food or to be spread into the environment. That would be equivalent to allowing a prescription drug in the food supply. Experts acknowledge that contamination of human food and animal feed is inevitable due to the inherent imprecision of biological and agricultural systems. This contamination by pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops pose substantial liability and other economic risks to farmers, grain handlers, and food companies.

This bill requires that all genetically engineered foods follow a strenuous food safety review process and attempts to prevent contamination of our food supply by pharmaceutical and industrial crops:

Require the FDA to screen all genetically engineered foods through the current food additive process to ensure they are safe for human consumption, yet continues FDA discretion in applying the safety factors that are generally recognized as appropriate.

Require that unique concerns regarding genetically engineered foods be explicitly examined in the review process, a phase-out of antibiotic resistance markers, and a prohibition on known allergens and requires the FDA to conduct a public comment period of at least 30 days.

Place a temporary moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops until all required regulations put forth by this bill with regard to these crops are in effect.

Place a permanent moratorium on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in an open-air environment and on pharmaceutical crops and industrial crops grown in a commonly used food source.

Require the United States Department of Agriculture to establish a tracking system to regulate the growing, handling, transportation, and disposal of all pharmaceutical and industrial crops and their byproducts to prevent contamination.

Call on the National Academy of Sciences to submit to Congress a report that explores alternative methods to produce pharmaceuticals or industrial chemicals that have the advantage of being conducted in controlled production facilities and do not present the risk of contamination.

THE GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FARMER PROTECTION ACT

Agribusiness and biotechnology companies have rapidly consolidated market power at the same time as the average farmer's profits and viability have significantly declined. Policies promoted by biotech corporations have systematically acted to remove basic farmer rights enjoyed since the beginning of agriculture. These policies include unreasonable seed contracts, the intrusion into everyday farm operations, and liability burdens. The introduction of genetically engineered crops has also created obstacles for farmers, including the loss of markets and increased liability concerns. To mitigate the abuses upon farmers, a clear set of farmer rights must be established.

Furthermore, biotech companies are selling a technology that is being commercialized far

in advance of the new and unknown science of genetic engineering. Farmers may suffer from crop failures, neighboring farmers may suffer from cross pollination, increased insect resistance, and unwanted "volunteer" genetically engineered plants, and consumers may suffer from health and environmental impacts. Therefore, biotech companies should be found liable for the failures of genetically engineered crops.

This bill provides several farmer rights and protections to maintain the opportunity to farm and ensures that the creator of the technology assumes all liability:

Farmers may save seeds and seek compensation for failed genetically engineered crops.

Biotech companies may not: shift liability to farmers; nor require access to farmer's property; nor mandate arbitration; nor mandate court of jurisdiction; nor require damages beyond actual fees; nor charge more to American farmers for use of this technology, than they charge farmers in other nations, or any other unfair condition.

Seed companies must: ensure seeds labeled non-GE are accurate; provide clear instructions to reduce cross-pollination, which contaminates other fields; and inform farmers of the risks of using genetically engineered crops.

The EPA is required to evaluate the concern of Bt resistant pests and take actions necessary to prevent resistance to Bt, an important organic pesticide.

The bill prohibits genetic engineering designed to produce sterile seeds and loan discrimination based on the choice of seeds an agricultural producer uses.

The bill places all liability from negative impacts of genetically engineered organisms squarely upon the biotechnology companies that created the genetically engineered organism.

Farmers are granted indemnification to protect them from the liabilities of biotech companies.

The bill prohibits any transfer of liability away from the biotechnology companies that created the genetically engineered organism.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the February 2008 New Republican Earmark Standards Guidance, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman DAVID L. HOBSON.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Provision: Title I, Department of Defense, Military Construction.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$12,800.00 to fund acceleration of construction of a facility to relocate the Ohio Air National Guard's 269th Combat Communications Squadron and 251st Combat Communications

Group to another part of the Springfield, Ohio, Air National Guard Base. The current 25-year-old facility is obsolete and places severe restrictions on the ability to perform equipment maintenance and conduct training operations. It does not comply with existing codes and has excessive operations and maintenance costs. The current building can be reused for other functions but cannot be made functionally adequate for the communications mission.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. GIOVANNI AND LINA DEL SIGNORE ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor and acknowledge Mr. and Mrs. Giovanni and Lina Del Signore, who on March 9, 2008 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Giovanni and Lina both grew up in Italy, where they met, and decided to marry in the spring of 1958. Just one week after the wedding Giovanni left his hometown and wife to pursue a future in the United States. Four years later, Lina was finally able to join her husband in Michigan, and in 1963, the couple opened DiGiovanni's Pizza in Livonia, Michigan. Today the Giovannis are the proud owners of the Laurel Manor Banquet and Conference Center, which has been a family affair since its opening in 1988.

While their restaurant business prospered, John and Lina have made time for their loving family they have built together. Over the years, they have been blessed with four beautiful children, Constantino, Luciano, Nazzrena, and Renata. In subsequent years each of their children went on to assist their parents in continuing the tradition of quality and hospitality within the community.

Madam Speaker, this year John and Lina returned to Italy to renew their vows and celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Today, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating them on this spectacular milestone and sending our best wishes for many more years of happiness.

ON THE BIRTH OF MADELYN CLAIRE KAPLAN AND AINSLEY ELIZABETH KAPLAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my friend Andrew Kaplan and his wife Danleigh Kaplan of Washington on the birth of their new twin girls. Madelyn Claire Kaplan and Ainsley Elizabeth Kaplan were born on July 27, 2008 weighing 5 pounds 2 ounces and 5 pounds 8 ounces respectively. Madelyn and Ainsley have been born into a loving home where they will be raised by parents who are devoted to their well-being and bright future.

I am so excited for this new addition to the Kaplan family. On behalf of my wife Roxanne,

and our entire family, we want to wish Andrew, Danleigh, Madelyn, and Ainsley all the best.

THANK YOU FOUNDATION

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Thank You Foundation of Lebanon, Ohio. The Thank You Foundation is an all volunteer, non-profit organization whose stated mission is to show appreciation and express gratitude for those who have served in the United States Armed Forces both past and present.

The Thank You Foundation was created by John Guinn, a veteran of the United States Army and the organization's current President. John's inspiration came from his mother, who worked tirelessly for the Am Vets Organization and served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Post 24, in Dayton, Ohio. John's mother Juanita believed that gratitude and appreciation for soldiers and veterans should always be a priority and that without exception our support and respect should be presented publicly.

The Thank You Foundation provides an array of support for our soldiers and veterans. This includes sending care packages to active duty personnel serving overseas; providing resume and job coaching services to veterans and their families; and visiting veterans in care facilities. The Thank You Foundation is currently spearheading a large project to construct a Mobile Health Unit for use by the Veterans Affairs Cincinnati Medical Center. Once completed the mobile unit will travel the Cincinnati region and act as a one-stop center for veterans to enroll for care, receive initial examinations, and have access to mental health counseling. Just recently, The Thank You Foundation visited Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where they helped entertain and bring encouragement to the children of wounded veterans.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing all the amazing volunteers from The Thank You Foundation who continually lend their time to give so much to our men and women in the Armed Forces who preserve our Freedom.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE RAMONA ROBERTS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Judge Ramona Roberts as she retires as a Flint District Court judge. A celebration is planned for August 9th to honor Judge Roberts in Flint, Michigan.

Ramona Roberts graduated from Flint Northern High School in 1964 determined to become an attorney. She attended Flint Junior College, now Mott Community College, and graduated from Michigan State University with

high honors. She obtained her Doctorate of Jurisprudence from University of Toledo—College of Law in 1980.

Before returning to her hometown of Flint, Judge Roberts spent time working in Ohio completing legal research. Back in Michigan she spent several years working for Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, UAW Legal Services and as a judicial assistant to former Genesee County Circuit Court Judge Earl E. Borradaile. She entered private practice sharing office space with LoLanda R. Johnson and the soon to be named Chief Genesee County Circuit Judge Archie L. Hayman.

She successfully ran for Judge of the 68th District Court in 1992 because she wanted to bring a woman's perspective to the bench. She has served the people of Flint in this capacity since then. In 1992 she was elected by the highest number of votes for any Flint District Court judge and has been reelected twice, unopposed. In addition to her judicial duties, Judge Roberts has also served as the Financial Secretary of the Judicial Council National Bar Association and in 2002 she was President of the Michigan District Judges Association. She is the past President of the Boys and Girls Club of Flint and their learning center is named in her honor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in wishing Judge Ramona Roberts the best as she enters this new phase of her life. The 68th District Court and the people of Flint are losing a wonderful public servant and a diligent legal mind with her retirement.

REMEMBERING THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and remember the 55th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice and to remember the more than 474,000 Allied troops who lost their lives defending our freedom and liberty.

On June 25, 1950, the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th parallel in blatant contravention of international law and aggression against South Korean democracy. Under the guise of a counter-attack, the North Korean Army struck on the early Sunday morning behind a firestorm of artillery. The North Korean army advanced quickly and eventually gained control of nearly 90 percent of the peninsula. After days of bloodshed, South Korean and Allied troops pushed North Korean forces back beyond the 38th parallel. Then on October 8, 1950, Chinese forces joined efforts with North Korean troops. Fighting continued for the next two years, and both sides struggled until ultimately ended in a stalemate. By July 27, 1953, a ceasefire was established at the front line which by that time was again the 38th parallel. After three years of full scale fighting, tens of thousands of allied troops and South Korean civilians had died.

Today, South Korea and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to uphold the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, and human rights.

Madam Speaker, today many people refer to the Korean War as the "Forgotten War,"

but we cannot forget the sacrifice of our American service men and women. I ask my colleagues to rise with me in remembering the courage and sacrifice of those lost.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, as a leader on earmark reform among House Republicans, I am committed to honoring House Republican rules that provide for greater transparency. The Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriation Act contains the following funding that I requested:

Requesting Member: Rep. ZACH WAMP.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658.

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name Requesting Entity: Tennessee National Guard.

Address: 3041 Sidco Drive, Nashville, TN.

Description of Request: \$10,372,000 for the construction of a new Army National Guard Readiness Center to replace the inadequate Readiness Center that was constructed in 1954. The existing facility has numerous health and safety issues as well as significant electrical code issues, and ADA violations. The new facility will house the 20th Troop Command, and the Company Headquarters of the 1175th Transportation Company. This project is in the Army National Guard's Fiscal Year 2012 Future Year Defense Plan.

H. CON. RES. 361, A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF IRENA SENDLER

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today as an original co-sponsor and strong supporter of House Concurrent Resolution 361, a resolution which commemorates the life of Irena Sendler, a woman whose courage and selflessness saved the lives of thousands of Polish citizens from Nazi brutality during the Holocaust.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois, for introducing this legislation, as well as the 63 other bipartisan Members of Congress for their co-sponsorship of H. Con. Res. 361.

This important resolution commemorates the work of Irena Sendler, a Polish woman who dedicated her life to saving 2,500 Jewish children from Poland's Warsaw Ghetto and Nazi extermination during the Holocaust. As an early activist during World War II, Sendler joined Zegota, an underground movement that provided a safe haven for Jews who would otherwise be sent to death camps throughout Europe. In addition, Sendler built strong connections in Warsaw's Welfare Department that enabled her to help ferry Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto.

Sendler was eventually caught by the Nazis, brutally tortured, and sentenced to death for her heroic acts. However, Sendler managed to escape and continued her work of saving children in the Warsaw Ghetto.

After the Holocaust, Irena Sendler was rewarded for her courageous efforts. In 1965, she was recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Yad Vashem in Israel. In 2006, she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Sendler was also awarded the Order of the White Eagle, Poland's highest civilian decoration.

Irena Sendler passed away on May 12, 2008 at the age of 98. A woman who risked her own life to defend the lives of others, it is appropriate for Sendler to be recognized and honored by the Congress. Her selflessness and courage to fight against hate and genocide should serve as a model for others in our world to combat hatred and intolerance and seek to end the genocide in the Sudan.

It is unacceptable for citizens of this country or any other nation to allow, accept, or tolerate acts of hatred. Yet worldwide discrimination continues to exist and Holocaust deniers still serve as leaders of nations.

In honoring the life of Irena Sendler and her courageous acts to save Jewish children from the Nazis, we pay tribute to the righteous among us and reaffirm our commitment to combating worldwide acts of discrimination. I send my condolences to the Sendler family and hope Irena's story will encourage all citizens of the world to uphold justice, equality, and human rights.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEVIN MCCARTHY.

BM Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction, Air Force.

Project Amount: \$6,000,000.

Legal Name of Recipient Military Installation: Edwards Air Force Base.

Address of Recipient Military Installation: 1 S. Rosamond Blvd., Edwards AFB, CA.

Description of Request: This funding would complete construction of the main base runway at Edwards Air Force Base, CA. The funding will be used to complete paved shoulders on the runway and account for extra costs in the overall runway replacement project from items such as the stabilization of over 41,000 cubic yards of both unsuitable and unstable soil.

The main base runway, which supports almost every flight operation at Edwards Air Force Base, as well as space shuttle landings when necessary, is over 50 years old and is rapidly degrading as a result of Alkali-Silica

Reaction (ASR), a reaction between the cement and the aggregate that creates map cracking, scaling and spalling of the concrete. Emergency Foreign Object Damage (FOD) repairs have forced runway closures affecting 10 to 15 flights for each closure. No other runways at Edwards AFB can safely support the current and projected test operations without significant test mission delays, and temporary relocation of these missions is not feasible; however, many of the current and planned test missions can be supported by a temporary runway.

This project was programmed by the Air Force in 2003 for FY06, and was incrementally funded over 3 years (FY06, FY07 and FY08). After the project was programmed, the cost of construction materials escalated dramatically, eliminating all management reserve and resulting in a reduction in the planned scope of the project. Providing the final \$6,000,000 in FY09 will complete the project as originally scoped, avoid contractor demobilization and remobilization, and avoid reconstitution of the temporary runway to support this work, saving the government over \$4,000,000 in cost avoidance on the temporary runway alone.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN'S SOLAR CAR TEAM FOR WINNING THE NORTH AMERICAN SOLAR CHALLENGE

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Michigan's Solar Car Team on their recent victory in the North American Solar Challenge.

The team finished the 2,400-mile course in just over 50 hours, and beat 15 other universities, including the second-place team by an astonishing 10 hours. The victory marks the University's fifth in the nine races since the North American Solar Challenge began in 1990.

The University of Michigan Solar Car Team is an entirely student-run organization whose purpose is to design, finance, build, and race a solar-powered vehicle in competitions around North America and the world. With more than 100 members, Solar Car is one of the largest student organizations on campus, including students from the College of Engineering, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, the Ross School of Business, the School of Art and Design, and the School of Education.

This victory is a testament to the team's hard work, creativity, and determination. Many of the students have worked on their car for two years. They raised money, created new systems, tested their designs, and made the necessary tweaks to ensure the car was ready for competition. All of this hard work paid off on Tuesday, when they captured their fifth title.

As University President Mary Sue Coleman said, "These students have demonstrated the promise of alternative energy and new technologies with the championship run of their car, Continuum. The campus community applauds such an impressive performance in this year's race."

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the students and faculty supervisors of the University of Michigan's Solar Car Team.

INTRODUCTION OF NATIONAL CONSUMER COOPERATIVE BANK ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2008 JULY 29, 2008

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to offer the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act Amendments of 2008. This legislation is necessary to make a technical correction to the statute of the National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act.

The National Consumer Cooperative Bank, NCB, was created by Congress in 1978 and is dedicated to strengthening communities nationwide through the delivery of banking and financial services, complemented by a special focus on cooperative expansion and economic development.

The National Consumer Cooperative Bank Act of 1978 established a non-profit corporation to reach further into low income communities and to serve disadvantaged populations. NCB Capital Impact is that non-profit, mission-driven subsidiary of NCB that works to provide housing, education, healthcare, cultural centers, small businesses and social services in economically distressed communities.

In the last 10 years alone, NCB Capital Impact has invested more than \$600 million in assistance to low- and moderate-income communities. Cumulatively, these funds helped finance 32,000 affordable housing units, 8,700 affordable assisted living units for seniors and persons with disabilities, 94,000 school seats, 2.4 million square feet of community health center space serving 350,000 patients, and helped created 15,000 jobs for low-income individuals.

In my home city of New York, NCB Capital Impact has played a significant role in providing housing finance to much of New York's 14th District. In fact, NCB has participated in more than 600 loans in my district alone. Most of these loans are for housing, including affordable housing, as well as loans for community facilities and loans to non-profit organizations like the Council of New York Cooperatives and Condominiums. Together, these groups are able to provide assisted living, affordable housing and services to the frail and elderly. Presently, NCB Capital Impact is working with 5 community-based organizations to help finance 17 projects that will create 558 housing units.

Despite their good work in serving low-income communities and disadvantaged populations, NCB Capital Impact is not eligible for assistance authorized under the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, which is administered by the CDFI Fund. The Fund has ruled it cannot certify NCB Capital Impact as a CDFI because of the corporate structure of its parent NCB. In short, NCB Capital Impact is shut off from critical sources of financial awards that are needed to maintain their housing and community development efforts.

The interest of NCB Capital Impact in gaining CDFI certification is two-fold. First, it has a track record that is comparable to other organizations that received CDFI status; its mission is dedicated to working with low income populations and communities. Second, increasingly in the community development finance field, CDFI certification is viewed as a 'good housekeeping seal' of approval in working with other Federal agencies and other private and public institutions.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this technical amendment to the NCB statute so that the non-profit, mission-driven NCB Capital Impact may continue to provide services to distressed and underserved communities throughout New York and the country at-large.

REMEMBERING THE 34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and remember the 34th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, to mourn the thousands of Greek Cypriots who lost their lives, and to condemn Turkey's ongoing occupation of the Republic of Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded the island in blatant contravention of international law. After days of bloodshed, Turkey's soldiers maintained a stronghold in the north, and eventually gained control of roughly 37% of the island. As a result of the invasion and occupation, approximately 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forced from their homes and over 5,000 were killed. Furthermore, over 1,400 Greek Cypriots, including 4 Americans, remain missing since the start of Turkey's onslaught.

Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to uphold the ideals of freedom, democracy, justice, and human rights. The international community has a moral and ethical obligation to stand with persecuted Cypriots, reunify the island, and end Turkey's military occupation.

Madam Speaker, we cannot forget the realities of what took place on July 20, 1974, in Cyprus, nor can we continue to ignore the ongoing human rights violations by Turkey's occupying army. Today, I wish to offer my support for a single independent and sovereign Cyprus, which not only respects human rights, but the fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JAMES S. ALLEN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my dear friend, Rev. James S. Allen, in honor of his 30th anniversary as pastor of the Vine Memorial Baptist Church of Philadelphia. Reverend Allen has carried the torch for human rights throughout his career and has brought that same pas-

sion to his ministry in Philadelphia. Through his work, he has touched the lives of numerous members of my community and continues to be a blessing to all those who encounter him.

Born in rural Arkansas, Reverend Allen was a firsthand witness to the injustices of racial segregation. The young Reverend Allen walked 4 miles both ways to his segregated three-room schoolhouse every day, and in spite of the challenge, he went on to become valedictorian of his high school's graduating class. After Reverend Allen joined the United States Air Force and honorably served in the Korean War until 1956, he returned home to the ever burgeoning issue of racial equality and discovered his life's calling in the ministry. When the integration orders handed down in *Brown v. Board of Education* were jeopardized, Reverend Allen joined the fight to uphold its central purpose of racial equity. The day that President Eisenhower ordered military troops into Little Rock to ensure its desegregation, Reverend Allen, with the same thought in mind, enrolled at the Arkansas Baptist College.

As a champion of human rights, Reverend Allen has made his mark in a number of places. He assisted Dr. Leon Sullivan in planning the first and second African American Summits and has worked extensively with the Opportunities Industrialization Centers of America Incorporated to help members of his community find and maintain jobs. Reverend Allen has served in numerous leadership positions for various organizations. Most notable has been his service as vice-president of National Baptist Congress of Christian Education and as the first president of the Black Clergy of Philadelphia and Vicinity. Reverend Allen also served as a special assistant to the first African American mayor of Philadelphia, W. Wilson Goode. Currently, Reverend Allen serves as the chairman of the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations. Above his charitable contributions to the community at large, he is also a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Madam Speaker, Reverend Allen has been a minister for 51 years, 30 of which have been at the Vine Memorial Baptist Church of Philadelphia. He has served the people of many cities, making a lasting impact everywhere he has been. As a valued member of my community, I ask that you and my other esteemed colleagues join me in congratulating Reverend Allen on this occasion of achieving 30 years of pastoral excellence in Philadelphia and a growing legacy of human rights successes.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. FORBES. Madam Speaker, consistent with Republican earmark standards, the following are detailed finance plans for each of my requested projects in the H.R. 6599, Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for FY 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction, Navy.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Norfolk Naval Shipyard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Portsmouth, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provide \$10,590,000 to make Industrial Access Improvements at Main Gate 15 at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard. Mandatory vehicle access control at military installations is a Department of Defense (DoD) requirement per DoD Directives 5200.8 and 5200.8R. Based on a Staff Integrated Vulnerability Assessment conducted in October 2006, the entrance and guardhouse configuration at Gate 15 are inadequate for both industrial access and from a security/safety standpoint and require upgrading. This project provides for industrial access improvements of Gate 15 including the truck and private automobile inspection area, Pass Office Renovations and counterterrorism measures at Gate 15.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction, Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Pickett.

Address of Requesting Entity: Fort Pickett, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$2,950,000 to be used to construct a Multipurpose Machine Gun Range for training purposes with a variety of firearms and weapons for the Virginia National Guard and other Army and Guard units along the East Coast. Full budget documentation is a part of the President's Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Defense budget request.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee.

Address of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$90,000,000 to construct a standard-design training barracks complex for advanced initial training for Army soldiers. This project supports the increase in trainee requirements at Fort Lee as part of the increase in permanent end strength of the Army. The estimated and intended use is 1,200 soldiers. All existing adequate facilities are being fully utilized to support current operations. If this project is not provided, there will not be sufficient adequate permanent facilities to support the Grow the Force initiative and soldiers will continue to work out of temporary and/or relocatable buildings which have limited operational capabilities and limited useful life expectancies. Full budget documentation is a part of the President's Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Defense budget request.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. RANDY FORBES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee.

Address of Requesting Entity: Fort Lee, VA, USA.

Description of Request: Provides \$10,300,000 to provide a dining facility to support an increase in the number of soldiers who will receive Advanced Individual Training at Fort Lee. This project supports the Grow the

Force initiative. It will enable the Army to meet the greater training throughput requirement that will result from the increased size of the Army. All existing adequate facilities are being fully utilized to support current operations as well as Army Modularity and Global Defense Posture Realignment (GDPR) initiatives. If this project is not provided, there will not be sufficient adequate dining facilities to support the training requirement as a result of the Grow the Force initiative. All physical security measures and antiterrorism protection measures are included. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Housing) certifies that this project has been considered for joint use potential. Full budget documentation is a part of the President's Fiscal Year 2009 Department of Defense budget request.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act; 2009, contains \$6,800,000 for MXG Consolidation and Forward Logistic Center, Phase 2 in the Air Force, Military Construction account.

This project is for McConnell Air Force Base located at 57837 Coffeyville St., Kansas, 67221.

The funds will help complete phase two of the Maintenance Group (MXG) Consolidation and Forward Logistics Center that will streamline many different facilities into one maintenance facility, resulting in improved military operations and saving taxpayer dollars by reducing operations and maintenance spending.

No matching funds are required for this military construction project.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER PAUL TIPTON

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. McGOVERN. Madam Speaker, on May 25, my friend, Father Paul Tipton, passed away. He was an incredible man with an irreverent sense of humor who accomplished great things.

I first met Father Tipton in 1989. He was the President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities and I was a staffer for Congressman Joe Moakley (D-MA). On November 16th of that year, six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter were murdered by members of the U.S.-backed Salvadoran Armed Forces. A cover-up ensued and there was a strong sense that the truth would never be known.

Father Tipton organized the Jesuit community in the United States—including all the Jesuit college and university Presidents—to put pressure on the U.S. and Salvadoran governments and demand truth and justice in this tragic case. He worked closely with Congressman Moakley, who headed a special task

force that was established to investigate these crimes. His no-nonsense style and his tough talk earned him the nickname "Father John Wayne." He wouldn't give up—and ultimately he helped find the truth.

Father Tipton dedicated his life to helping people and making the world a better place. In addition to his work in El Salvador, he was a champion for education and making sure that everyone who wanted an education could afford to get one. He was a great man and a great friend. I miss him.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent to insert Father Tipton's obituary, which appeared in the Washington Post on Sunday, June 1, 2008, into the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, June 1, 2008]

PAUL TIPTON; EXPOSED JESUIT DEATHS IN EL SALVADOR

(By Patricia Sullivan)

Paul Smallwood Tipton, 69, who, while president of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities helped expose the assassination of six Catholic priests, their housekeeper and her daughter by the Salvadoran army, died of cancer May 25 at Georgetown University Hospital. He lived in the District and Lusby.

Rev. Tipton had just started at the association when he received a call telling him that the sole witness to the Nov. 16, 1989, murders of six Jesuits and two women at Central American University in San Salvador was detained and interrogated by Salvadoran officials, the U.S. State Department and the FBI. He flew from Washington to Miami and took custody of Luisa Cerna, the housekeeper and her husband.

He became active in the case, writing letters that accused the U.S. ambassador of attempting to discredit her.

"The reason we Jesuits in the United States are very angry is that the mistreatment of the Cernas effectively has neutralized the only witness who has come forward, and it means probably no other witness will come forward," he told the New York Times at the time. "This particular institution is a voice for peace and justice, and pursuing the people who pulled the triggers is a very personal matter for us."

Rev. Tipton later made several trips to El Salvador with U.S. Rep. Joe Moakley, the Massachusetts Democrat who led the congressional task force investigating the killings. The revelations led to a cut in U.S. foreign aid to the Salvadoran government, resolution of the country's civil war and election of a new government.

Rev. Tipton was born in Birmingham Ala., and began studying to be a Jesuit priest in 1958. He attended the University of Virginia and graduated from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. He taught at an El Paso high school, while attending graduate school at the University of Texas at El Paso.

In 1968, he joined the staff of U.S. Rep. Richard C. White (D-Tex.) and did further graduate work in theological studies at Woodstock College in Maryland, Union Theological Seminary in New York and Catholic University. He was ordained a Jesuit priest in 1971 in New Orleans.

The following year, he was named the president of Spring Hill College, where he worked for 17 years. While there, he and a crew of students raced a 40 foot sloop, "Holy Smoke," in a 180-mile overnight trip in the Gulf of Mexico in 1983. Halfway through the race, an intense storm with near-hurricane strength winds generated 20-foot waves. Rev. Tipton and his crew headed home but almost a third of the 29 boats had major problems. The Coast Guard responded to three Mayday calls and one sailor drowned.

Rev. Tipton, who was chairman of the off-shore committee of the Gulf Yachting Association, which had sponsored the race, found two of the missing crews the next day on a barrier island according to a contemporaneous article in the New York Times.

He worked at the association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Washington from 1989 until 1996, overseeing the legislative activities of the 28 Jesuit postsecondary schools in the United States.

When Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School caught fire July 8, 1993, Rev. Tipton helped lead nuns out of their monastery into the courtyard, then joined other priests in rescuing priceless vestments, chalices, and paintings. With a friend, Davis Feickert, he removed a massive 1821 painting of Jesus, Mary and Martha in prayer, donated to the Sisters of Visitation by Charles X of France.

By 1996, when he became president of Jacksonville University in Florida, Rev. Tipton had left the Jesuits and become a diocesan priest. He returned to Washington in 2000, working as a counselor to the secretary of labor. In 2001, he started the Provident Consulting Group to provide services to non-profit and faith-based organizations a group he ran until his death.

In 2003, he became president of St. Mary's Ryken High School, a Catholic college preparatory school in Leonardtown, where for the next two years he developed a long-range financial plan, recrafted the mission statement and increased annual giving by 100 percent.

He was a member of numerous education and civic boards.

He had no immediate family survivors.

H.R. 6340, "CHARLES L. BRIEANT, JR. FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE"

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 6340, a bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse in White Plains, New York, as the "Charles L. Brieant, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse". I commend the gentlewoman from New York, Ms. LOWEY, for her steadfast actions to ensure that this bipartisan bill received timely consideration.

Judge Brieant was an eminent jurist who recently died at the age of 85. He maintained a full docket until he moved to senior status in 2007. Judge Charles Brieant, Jr. was born in 1923 in Ossining, New York, and served in his hometown during his entire professional career. He graduated from Columbia University and Columbia Law School.

He began his public service practicing in White Plains, New York, while serving as water commissioner for the town of Ossining, New York. Judge Brieant was elected Ossining town justice in 1952 before serving as village attorney for Briarcliff Manor, New York.

From 1960 through 1963, he served as town supervisor for Ossining. He also served in the New York legislature in 1970 and 1971. In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon nominated Judge Brieant to serve on the District Court for the Southern District of New York. He served as Chief Judge for the Southern District of New York from 1986 to 1993. Last year, Judge Brieant took senior status.

During his distinguished career, Judge Brieant received many awards and honors including the Servant of Justice Award from the Guild of St. Ives in 1998 and the Edward Weinfeld Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Administration of Justice in 2006.

During his lengthy career, Judge Brieant rendered many important decisions, including the Texaco bankruptcy case, and the decision to overturn New York's primary system, declaring it "unconstitutionally discriminating" by diluting the voting strength of minority voters. He was known as a strong independent thinker, a true gentleman, and a mentor to young lawyers.

It is both fitting and proper to honor Judge Brieant's distinguished public career with this designation. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6340.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, the foreclosure crisis is hurting communities all across the Nation and my district has been especially impacted: In San Bernardino County, 11,817 notices of default were recorded in the first quarter, 130 percent more than a year earlier.

Everyone pays when there are foreclosures. Crime increases, home values decline, schools are affected, and cities run deficits which impacts revenues for local police, fire, and social services.

Last Wednesday, I came to the floor in support of a legislative package that would stimulate our Nation's struggling economy and help prevent foreclosures. The House passed the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 with bipartisan support on that same day and the Senate approved it last Saturday, sending the bill straight to the President for his signature.

I am particularly pleased that the final package included an important housing counseling provision which I offered with support from Reps. MAHONEY from Florida and MCCARTHY from New York. This provision directs the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation to give greater consideration to counseling agencies that have a demonstrated track record in working with servicers and that provide in-person contact and in-person [face-to-face] housing counseling to borrowers in trouble when awarding their grants. It evolved out of the growing concern that despite all of the media attention given to the foreclosure crisis, as well as the creation of the HOPE Now Alliance, many homeowners were still not receiving assistance they needed to avoid entering foreclosure. According to a Freddie Mac study, 56 percent of homeowners don't even know free counseling exists. Also, counselors across the country have reported delays and challenges connecting with telephone counseling. Counselors that receive referrals from hotlines often have to start fresh with the client, and language minorities report having difficulty reaching a live counselor.

Whenever possible, in-person foreclosure counseling is preferable over telephone coun-

seling alone. In fact, one-on-one counseling is shown preference in the HUD Housing Counseling Program—one that has demonstrated enormous success.

Of course, the intention of this provision is not to exclude any struggling family. If telephone counseling is the only means of support available, the family should absolutely have access to it. The intention is to promote first the most effective and efficient services to families, then ensure a back up is in place. Telephone counseling should augment and supplement in-person counseling when it is unavailable or work is overflowing. Not the other way around.

The intent of the effort which I have described is to make housing counseling dollars as effective as possible and to reach as many borrowers in trouble as possible. Providing in-person outreach to homeowners in trouble and in-person housing counseling is more effective than just sending a default notification in the mail. Having someone individually reach out to these borrowers to work through their options to avoid foreclosure by analyzing their specific situation, including their loan document, is a necessary line of prevention and defense.

My amendment simply directs some of the counseling funding in the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act (H.R. 3221) to organizations that already promote this proven method.

It is our hope that the lenders, servicers, and federally regulated and federally chartered institutions like the GSEs and HUD would also do everything possible to include in-person outreach and in-person counseling in their efforts, including working with organizations that have the demonstrated capacity to reach out to homeowners needing assistance. Increasing this type of outreach and assistance is especially critical in non-judicial foreclosure states where notice of default and foreclosure is limited.

We also hope the language in this bill will help level the playing field to ensure organizations with established servicer partnerships and the demonstrated experience and capacity to offer more in-depth service through in-person counseling and outreach can receive grant funding so that they have the resources they need to assist those hard-to-reach borrowers.

This is good public policy and good business because it will increase loan modifications and decrease foreclosures and thereby minimize the adverse impact on local communities. It will also strengthen relationships between counseling agencies, servicers, and lenders to enhance outreach out to borrowers who are behind in their payments. More importantly, it will help keep struggling families in their homes.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased that the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act contains another provision I authored in my bill, H.R. 4019, the Mortgage Disclosure Improvement Act and I want to thank Senator REED (RI) the author of the companion bill, for his leadership in shepherding this provision in the Senate. This provision will ensure that consumers are provided with timely and meaningful disclosures in connection with not just home purchases but also for loans that refinance a home or provide a home equity line of credit. It requires that mortgage disclosures be provided within 3 days of application and no later than 7 days

before closing. This should allow borrowers to shop for another mortgage if they are not satisfied with the terms. If the terms of the loan change, the consumer must be notified 3 days before closing of the changed terms.

If consumers apply for adjustable rate or variable rate payment loans, there will now be an explicit warning on the 1-page Truth in Lending Act form that the payments will change depending on the interest rate and an estimate of how those payments will change under the terms of the contract based on the current interest rate. The bill also provides a new disclosure that informs borrowers of the maximum monthly payments possible under their loan.

The bill provides the right to waive the early disclosure requirements if the consumer has a bona fide financial emergency that requires they close the loan quickly and increases the range of statutory damages for TILA violations from the current \$200 to \$2,000 to a range of \$400 to \$4,000.

Finally, it requires lenders to include a statement that the consumer is not obligated to purchase the mortgage loan just because they received the disclosures. This will give consumers the opportunity to truly shop around for the best mortgage terms for the first time ever. They will be able to compare the payments and costs associated with a certain loan product and decide not to sign on the dotted line if they do not like the basic terms of the loan.

This will help prevent foreclosures in the future especially given the fact that many consumers facing foreclosure on their homes who have adjustable rate mortgages never understood how their loan products worked or how high their payments would be once their loans reset.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TOM FEENEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. FEENEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 6599, the FY 09 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill:

I sent the attached letter to the Appropriations committee members on February 4, 2008 asking for complete funding for the veterans hospital being built in Orlando, FL.

The funds for the new medical facility in Orlando, FL come from the Major Construction account under Veterans Affairs. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, will be receiving the funds. The \$220,000,000 will be used toward construction, site preparation, installation of utilities, roads, and an energy plant.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 4, 2008.

Hon. ROGER WICKER,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER WICKER: I am writing to request that Congress include full funding for the completion of the VA hospital to be located in Orlando, Florida. The

President's budget released today allocates \$120 million for the hospital. In order to insure the swift completion of the Lake Nona hospital it is imperative that the VA receive full funding in this budget year.

Today, there are more than 26.5 million veterans living in the United States and Puerto Rico with more than 1.8 million of them residing in the State of Florida. That is the second highest total in America, second only to California. More than one-third of these live in the Central Florida area alone.

According to the VA, Central Florida is the number one destination for combat veterans 65 years of age or older. It is also the number one area for veterans who have 50 percent or more service connected disability and 18 percent of our veterans have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has estimated the cost to complete this hospital at \$597 million. This hospital is a top priority for the VA and is badly needed in central Florida. It is vital that the remaining \$537 million, to finish construction, is included in the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction appropriations bill.

I hope you will consider the inclusion of these funds as you work through the many important requests during the FY09 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

TOM FEENEY,
Member of Congress.

LETTER TO HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI FROM REPRESENTATIVE McCOTTER

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to place into the RECORD my letter to His Holiness Benedict XVI concerning the persecution of the Christian community in Iraq.

JULY 24, 2008.

His Holiness BENEDICT XVI,
Apostolic Palace,
Vatican City State, Europe.

YOUR HOLINESS: It is with great respect that I write to you as both a Member of Congress and a Roman Catholic. Your witness to justice and advocacy of the plight of the persecuted is an instrument of hope.

Your Holiness has emphasized the importance to the Church of the well-being of the ancient Christian community of Iraq. It is now widely acknowledged to be an "endangered" community, with nearly half of its members forced to flee Iraq over the past five years. As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration & Refugee Services reported last July: "Especially critical is the plight of Iraq's minority religious communities, including Christians and Mandeans (or Sabians). These groups, whose home has been what is now Iraq for many centuries, are literally being obliterated—not because they are fleeing generalized violence but because they are being specifically and viciously victimized by Islamic extremists and, in some cases, common criminals."

As you meet with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki tomorrow, please know that the United States is shifting its burden to the Iraqi government. It is imperative that he acknowledge and commit to the future well-being of Iraq's endangered religious minorities.

Concerned Americans, including the ChaldoAssyrian Christians in my Congress-

sional district, are anxious that the Maliki government address the following issues to ensure that the Iraqi Christians, who have made contributions to Iraqi society far beyond what their numbers suggest, and other smallest minorities are able to maintain their presence as part of the national fabric of that country: Security, including protection for their vulnerable clergy, development assistance, humanitarian aid for the large number of displaced among them, educational opportunities, full civic participation, including thorough measures to guarantee free and fair provincial elections later this year that would allow them just representation, and equal treatment under the constitution that would allow political autonomy in the Nineveh Plains.

Be assured that I will remain actively engaged with the ChaldoAssyrian Church and civic leaders in the United States and Iraq to protect the fundamental dignity of this oppressed ancient community of Iraq.

The psalmist seeking deliverance from his enemies remembers the great mercy of God. "Blessed be the Lord! For he has shown me the wonders of his love in a besieged city . . . Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord" (Psalm 31: 21,24) The Christians of Iraq have suffered threats of violence, kidnappings, murder and being exiled from their ancient homeland. And yet, they are resilient in the face of what is certainly an existential threat. Their great faith and your advocacy on their behalf, give them hope.

I have the honor to profess myself with the most profound respect, your Holiness, sincerely yours,

THADDEUS G. McCOTTER,
Member of Congress.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman PETER T. KING

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Military Construction, Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New York National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 330 Old Niskayuna Road, Latham, NY 12110.

Description of Request: \$7.5 million will be used to construct Phase II of the Pararescue Facility. The use of taxpayer dollars is justified because The Francis Gabreski Air National Guard Base improves pararescue operations and survival equipment functions on Long Island.

INTRODUCING THE FOSTER CHILDREN OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Representative XAVIER BECERRA to introduce legislation aimed at ensuring all foster children have a fighting chance to lead healthy and productive lives after they leave care.

Each year, hundreds and perhaps thousands of abused and neglected children leave the child welfare system and become illegal immigrants through no fault of their own. Under current law, abused and neglected immigrant children in the child welfare system are eligible to become legal permanent residents under the Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) provisions of immigration law. In order to obtain SIJS, a court must find that the child is in long-term foster care with no opportunity for family reunification (either in the U.S. or in their home country). If a child also meets additional immigration criteria, such as not having a criminal record, they can become a Legal Permanent Resident. Once a child leaves the child welfare system, however, they are no longer eligible for SIJS. A series of articles in the Los Angeles Times and other reports have documented how children have aged-out of foster care or been adopted without obtaining SIJS. The result is that these abused and neglected children are forced into the underground economy, are extremely vulnerable to exploitation, and are under the constant threat of deportation back to a country that is unfamiliar to them and may be home to their abuser.

The Foster Children Opportunity Act aims to correct this terrible situation by requiring that all children in the foster care system be screened for SIJS eligibility and assisted through the legal process to obtain SIJS and eventually Legal Permanent Resident Status. The bill will provide technical assistance to help child welfare agencies better understand this problem and provide resources to train judges, attorneys, and other legal workers in a complex area of law.

This legislation will not change any aspect of current immigration law, nor will it result in any adults who have engaged in illegal behavior from gaining legal status. The bill simply aims to protect abused and neglected children by ensuring they have a fighting chance at leading healthy and productive lives when they exit foster care.

The Foster Children Opportunity Act will:

Require State plans for foster care and adoption assistance to document procedures to assist immigrant children in obtaining SIJS, Legal Permanent Residency, or other appropriate forms of immigration relief when doing so is in the child's best interest;

Require child welfare agencies to assist immigrant children, and document their efforts, in obtaining SIJS, Legal Permanent Residency, or other appropriate forms of relief under immigration law before the child exits foster care;

Require juvenile courts and child welfare agencies to determine whether filing petitions or appointing immigration counsel for a potentially SIJS eligible child is in that child's best interest;

Permit the Court Improvement Program to use funds to educate and train judges and lawyers to assist SIJS-eligible foster children;

Direct the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, to provide technical assistance to child welfare agencies in carrying out the provisions of this bill.

Members on all sides of the immigration debate should put down our differences when it comes to protecting abused and neglected children. We should not let the poisonous politics of immigration interfere with helping foster

children become successful adults. I encourage all of my colleagues to join us in supporting this simple legislation that will improve the lives of thousands of our most vulnerable children.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. EVERETT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding two earmarks I received as part of H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Request No. 1:

Requesting Member: Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction/U.S. Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army/Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

Address of Requesting Entity: Office of Command, Fort Rucker, 453 Novosel Street, Fort Rucker, Alabama 36362-5105.

Description of Request: The Chapel Center at Fort Rucker earmark request is for \$6,800,000. The funding is for the construction of a standard-design chapel complex featuring a sanctuary (400 seat capacity) and an activity center that is capable of seating an additional 239 people in a separate or combined service. The sanctuary will include a raised pulpit area and a baptismal suite. The facility also will include 15 religious education classrooms, two multi-purpose rooms, a blessed sacrament room, sacristy/robing room, choir room, resource center, nursery, restrooms, kitchen, storage, and administrative space for two Chaplains, Education Director and Assistant.

Additionally, some of the funding will be used for connection to the energy monitoring and control system (EMCS) and interior communications/building information systems and supporting utilities and other expenses in building of the Chapel Center.

Request No. 2:

Requesting Member: Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction/ U.S. Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Air Force/Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

Address of Requesting Entity: Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Montgomery, Alabama 36112-5000.

Description of Request: This funding will be used for the Air and Space Basic Course Combat Arms Training Facility at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base. The funding will be used to construct a 56-position, 50-meter small arms firing range with automated range target system, and a 639 SM support facility constructed with reinforced concrete foundation and floor slab, structural steel frame, masonry walls and sloped architecturally compat-

ible roof. The \$15,556,000 for this project was also included in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 budget.

TRIBUTE TO IRENE NELSON

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Irene Norman Nelson on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

Irene Nelson is one of the most extraordinary people I have ever met. She has been a longtime and treasured friend to my family and me. She is a woman of impeccable class, grace and integrity. She has a love and appreciation of life that is inspiring. And she has a wonderful sense of humor.

I cherish my memories of being with Irene at family events, vacations and trips to the theater. I enjoy our conversations. I admire her commitment to the arts and all things beautiful.

Madam Speaker, as a U.S. Congressman, I am privileged to meet many fascinating and incredible people. Irene, without a doubt, is at the top of that list.

I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Irene Nelson a happy and healthy birthday.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 5170, H.R. 5983, H.R. 5531, H.R. 2490, H.R. 6193, H.R. 4806, H.R. 3815, and H.R. 6098

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of these Homeland Security bipartisan measures. I would like to commend Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING for their efforts to bring these bills to the floor today. I would also like to congratulate the authors of these bills Congresswoman HARMAN and Congressmen CARNEY, LANGEVIN, KING, BILIRAKIS, REICHERT, and PERLMUTTER.

Individually, the bills presented today improve operations within the Department of Homeland Security, including issues related to privacy, information sharing and enhanced security. Collectively, they improve on the provisions of H.R. 1, the Implementing 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act.

Protecting the privacy of our citizens is an important but very difficult issue to balance in our Nation's war against terrorism. Under H.R. 1570, the presence of a full-time Component Privacy Officer would ensure that privacy considerations remain at the forefront and are integrated into the decisionmaking process at all of the DHS Components.

Through our oversight work, it is clear that DHS's information systems have been penetrated and remain vulnerable to cyber attacks. H.R. 5983, the Homeland Security Network Defense and Accountability Act of 2008, represents a critical step toward improving the cybersecurity network at DHS by ensuring a robust defense of its information systems, and

holding individuals at all levels accountable for mitigating vulnerabilities.

While protecting DHS information systems is critical to our Nation's security, we also need to be mindful of the importance and need for information sharing. H.R. 6193, H.R. 4806 and H.R. 3815 address the need for information sharing in a secure manner. H.R. 6193—Improving Public Access to Documents Act of 2008— dovetails with H.R. 4086's effort to remove obstacles to more and better information sharing in the unclassified category.

Our offshore territories are the first point of entry to the U.S. for many foreigners and our shores are extremely vulnerable to illegal and possibly terrorist activities. I am pleased that H.R. 5531 will put in motion a plan to deploy next-generation radiological detection technology at our ports of entry to more effectively and more efficiently scan persons and cargo as they enter the United States. I fully support the "Biometric Identification At Sea Pilot Project" which has allowed the Coast Guard to collect biometrics from individuals interdicted in the Caribbean to run them against terrorist and criminal databases. H.R. 5531 and H.R. 2490 address the vulnerabilities of our Caribbean shores.

Madam Speaker, the implementation of these bills would not be possible without our State, local and tribal entities. Fusion Centers provide much needed support to these entities in the implementation of Homeland Security programs. H.R. 6098 requires DHS to allow State and local governments to use Homeland Security grant funding to hire and keep analysts in fusion centers—for however long State and local officials see fit.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills and their passage.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman FRANK for his hard work on this housing package.

What began with a housing bubble, predatory and subprime lending, and loose regulatory enforcement has resulted in a record number of foreclosures across the country, the failure of financial institutions, a reduction in tax revenue for states and local government, a credit crunch, and a lack of confidence in our market that is affecting millions of individuals and families both directly and indirectly.

Families reliant on the continuously increasing housing market entered into loans they could never afford or adjustable-rate mortgages with the assumption they could refinance at a later date.

Loose regulatory enforcement allowed mortgage lenders and originators to engage in predatory lending practices and the housing bubble provided an incentive for lenders to reduce underwriting standards to encourage the creation of new loans.

Furthermore, the failure on the part of the regulators allowed financial institutions to package and sell these risky new loans on the secondary market with the highest ratings from the rating agencies.

All these events contributed to what we are now facing: increased foreclosure rates, large write-downs by financial institutions that hold a large number of mortgage-backed securities, vacant, foreclosed homes across the country, reduced tax revenue for states and local governments, and a lack of confidence in our financial and housing markets.

This bill, H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act, will address the causes of our current crisis through reform and attempt to assist communities dealing with the current crisis.

Although there are many provisions in this package that are worth noting, I would like to highlight several provisions that are absolutely necessary to ensure the success of this package.

This bill increases the high-cost loan limits for the Federal Housing Administration, FHA, and conforming loan limits for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These increases will allow those in high-cost areas such as my district, the Fourth Congressional District of New York, to take advantage of the FHA home loans program. Although many of us would prefer a larger increase in these limits, I believe the limits in this bill reflect a compromise that will make eligible middle-income families in high-cost areas who are currently precluded from taking advantage of the FHA home loan program. I thank Chairman FRANK and would like to recognize him for working with those of us who represent high-cost areas to ensure that our constituents are not left out.

This bill also allows Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac the flexibility to hold or sell jumbo loans on the secondary market. This flexibility will ensure Fannie and Freddie are not unnecessarily restricted in how they choose to deal with jumbo loans, and will ensure that loans will continue to be available to moderate-income families in high-cost areas.

Although reform is necessary to prevent another subprime crisis, we must also act to limit the effect that this crisis is having on our communities. Over half of the people who lose their homes stop communicating with their lenders within 30–60 days of missing a payment. This may happen for a number of reasons, including the fact that many homeowners are embarrassed or do not know their rights when they are unable to make their mortgage payments.

For these reasons, it is so important that organizations willing to reach out to borrowers at risk of foreclosure utilize in-person counseling and outreach. This is the only way to guarantee that families who need assistance are aware that assistance is available. Consequently, it only makes sense to provide organizations engaging in practices, such as in-person counseling, that are proven to be effective the resources they need to continue to provide these services.

I thank Mr. BACA and Mr. MAHONEY for working with me to ensure that language to this effect is included in this bill.

I also strongly support the almost \$4 billion in this bill for state and local governments for the purchase and re-development of vacant, foreclosed homes.

It has been estimated that a home decreases in value by almost one percent if a home within one city block has been foreclosed. This figure is even higher when more than one home in the area has been foreclosed. In my home district, a home price

would result in more than a \$4,000 decrease in value if one home is foreclosed.

Additionally, tax revenue is severely affected when homes are left vacant or there is a decrease in their assessed value. The vacancy or home value decrease results in a decrease in tax revenue which burdens the budgets of state and local governments. In many cases, this shortfall then results in cuts in services to those most in need, including our children and seniors.

Again, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Financial Services Committee and the many individuals who have worked to ensure that this bill reforms FHA and the GSEs, and tackles the increase in the rate of foreclosures and the devastating effects that vacant, foreclosed homes have on our communities.

MEDICAL EVIDENCE OF TORTURE BY U.S. PERSONNEL

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, last week the Helsinki Commission, which I Chair, held a briefing at which representatives from Physicians for Human Rights presented the findings of their recently published report, "Broken Laws, Broken Lives." In it, they documented the medical evidence of torture by U.S. personnel in 11 specific cases. I believe this briefing was the first opportunity on Capitol Hill for the public to hear specifically about the medical consequences of the administration's detention policies and to consider some of the ethical questions related to the medical treatment of detainees, including forced feeding and the possible role of medical professionals during interrogations.

We were fortunate to have with us as panelists Leonard Rubenstein, J.D., President of Physicians for Human Rights; Dr. Allen Keller, Advisor to Physicians for Human Rights and Director of the Bellevue/NYU Program for Survivors of Torture; and Dr. Scott Allen, also an Advisor to Physicians for Human Rights.

For many years, members of the Helsinki Commission have been actively engaged on issues related to torture and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment or punishment. Over the years, we have raised concern about the nearly constant reports of torture and abuse in Chechnya. We have pressed Turkey to provide detainees with prompt access to lawyers and medical personnel, because we know that when people are held incommunicado, they are more likely to experience torture. We have expressed alarm regarding the number of people who walk into Uzbekistan jails on their own two feet—and who have been returned to their families in boxes.

Last week, it was my sad duty to hear representatives from Physicians for Human Rights describe the torture and ill-treatment some detainees have experienced at the hands of U.S. personnel. As I noted then, I certainly expected to hear about the medical and psychological impact of this torture on the individuals whose cases were investigated by Physicians for Human Rights. But, coincidentally, there was a different kind of impact on display last week, when the U.S. also opened its first war crimes trial since World War II.

In the trial of Salim Hamdan, alleged to be Osama bin Laden's driver, the military judge overseeing the case found it necessary to exclude from evidence several statements of the defendant because they were obtained under what the military judge deemed "highly coercive" conditions. Another one of the government's efforts to bring a defendant before a military tribunal had already been put indefinitely on hold, reportedly because the evidence in the case cannot be disentangled from the impermissible methods that were used to extract it. In other words, the use of abusive interrogation methods has undermined the government's ability to prosecute people suspected of terrorism or terrorism-related crimes.

Let me repeat: the ill-conceived policy of "enhanced interrogations" has undermined our country's ability to prosecute people for the most serious crimes committed against this nation.

As it happened, on the day of our briefing last week, the ACLU released three new "torture memos" it had obtained through the Freedom of Information Act. Although highly redacted—indeed, one of them has ten pages that are entirely blacked out—these documents nevertheless provide some additional insight into the development of the policies that set the stage for what Major General Antonio Taguba, in his preface for the Physicians for Human Rights report, called "a systematic regime of torture." (You may recall that General Taguba led the U.S. Army's official investigations into the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal.)

Here's just one bit of information we now have from a memo prepared by the Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel on August 1, 2002 and released last week. This memo, prepared for the CIA, advises that the crime of torture, as defined by U.S. statute, requires a showing of specific intent to cause severe pain or suffering. That specific intent, in turn, will be negated if a defendant acts with a good faith belief that his actions will not cause severe pain or suffering. That good faith belief can be demonstrated by showing that an official acted in reliance on the advice of experts. And guess what? The Office of Legal Counsel is a bunch of experts. And they go on to say that the objective of the interrogation techniques under discussion—we don't know precisely what they are because they're blacked out—is not to cause severe physical pain. Just like magic, you have your expert advice, which gives you your good-faith belief, which negates the specific intent required under the statute which criminalizes torture. So you guys can go ahead and waterboard and God knows what else because the Office of Legal Counsel has told you that it does not cause severe pain or suffering, so you have legal license to ignore your own eyes and ears, which tell you that waterboarding will break a person in minutes.

Madam Speaker, the report by Physicians for Human Rights makes several recommendations that deserve study and consideration. But in light of the release of these most recent torture memos, I would like to highlight today one particular recommendation of the report: "The U.S. Department of Justice should publicly release all legal opinions and other memoranda concerning standards regarding interrogation and detention policy and practices."

The Department of Justice is the arbiter of what is the law of the land for this country. And I think the American people have a right to know if their government has sought to redefine "torture" as "not torture." Accordingly, I urge the Attorney General to release the full texts of all the memos relating to interrogation and detention policies and practices.

HONORING WILLIAM J. KOWALSKI

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring William J. Kowalski as he retires from the Federal Bureau of Investigation on August 1st.

William "Bill" Kowalski became a Special Agent in May 1983 after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Detroit in 1979 and his Juris Doctor from the University of Detroit School of Law in 1982. After taking the oath of office he trained at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia and began his Bureau career by returning to his hometown of Detroit.

After serving tours of duty in Memphis and New York City, Bill was promoted to a supervisory position at FBI Headquarters in 1989. In this capacity he was responsible for counter-intelligence and espionage investigations throughout the United States. He was one of the first FBI Agents to travel to Eastern Europe after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

Returning to Detroit, Bill became a Field Supervisor in the Detroit Division in August, 1992. He assumed supervisory responsibilities in Flint and Ann Arbor. In September 2004 he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Division, overseeing the FBI Detroit's Joint Terrorism Task Force, with counter-terrorism investigation jurisdiction in the state of Michigan.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise and join me in applauding the exemplary work of William J. Kowalski. He has been a dedicated public servant, working to ensure the safety of the United States and its citizens for many, many years. I have appreciated his insight, his thoughtfulness and his commitment to performing his work and I wish him the best as he enters the next phase of his life.

RECOGNIZING STOP CHILD ABUSE
NOW OF VIRGINIA ON ITS 20TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the work of SCAN Virginia—Stop Child Abuse Now—and congratulate this fine organization for 20 years of change in children's lives.

Twenty years ago, in 1988, a group of Alexandria citizens concerned about abused and neglected children in Northern Virginia came together to plan ways to prevent child abuse.

As a result, David Cleary founded Stop Child Abuse Now (SCAN) of Northern Virginia, a nonprofit organization to prevent child abuse and neglect and became affiliated with the State organization now called Prevent Child Abuse Virginia.

The first program offered at SCAN was the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program that now is the Alexandria/Arlington CASA Program. CASA now serves more children and engages up to 75 volunteers at a time to give voice to the needs and priorities of abused or neglected children, one child at a time.

SCAN works collaboratively with the Arlington and Alexandria Juvenile & Domestic Relations Courts to mold a CASA Program that provides helpful information to the Juvenile Judges who make determinations on the futures of abused and neglected children, while SCAN's CASA volunteers provide an independent voice that focuses solely on the best interest of the children.

SCAN's Parent Education Program has a continuum of services that range from intensive parenting classes, weekly educational parent support groups and developmental playgroups—all offered in English and Spanish. SCAN also offers a tri-annual Parent Connection Resource Guide, a publication that gives critical information about region-wide parenting classes, support groups, playgroups and other resources available to parents in Northern Virginia.

The Allies in Prevention Coalition, which is made up of child welfare professionals from the five major Northern Virginia jurisdictions, is a central part of SCAN's Public Education Program, as is SCAN's website: www.scanva.org. SCAN's Allies in Prevention Coalition engages child and family advocates in communicating regional messages to prevent child abuse and promote children's well-being in Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I can think of no higher calling than to help children in need. Please join me in commending SCAN of Northern Virginia as it celebrates twenty years of serving children and families in Northern Virginia through programs and services that keep children safe, strengthen parenting skills and provide advocacy in the courts, legislature and the community.

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC
RECOVERY ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Ms. Roybal-Allard. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008. I thank Chairman FRANK and Chairwoman WATERS for bringing this important legislation to the House floor today.

I am certain that all of my colleagues have heard from constituents about the devastating effect the foreclosure crisis has had on their families and communities. The problem is particularly acute in my home state of California, which has the second-highest foreclosure rate in the Nation. Recent data has shown that the problem is getting worse. In the last three months, foreclosures in California have jumped 33.5 percent from the previous period.

To help my constituents confront this crisis, I recently held a foreclosure prevention workshop in my district. The turnout was enormous—nearly 500 members of our community attended the workshop, where national banks, HUD, and other intermediaries provided one-on-one housing counseling, and information on viable options for preventing foreclosure.

We know that the overwhelming turnout at the event was not an anomaly—I have heard from many of my colleagues that they too have experienced record turnouts at events they have hosted to help their own constituents.

At the workshop I heard from numerous participants who were concerned that Congress was not doing enough to address the crisis.

I am gratified that today we can go back to our constituents and assure them that Congress has taken action to help address this crisis by passing the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act. H.R. 3221 represents a solid step forward in our efforts to confront the mortgage crisis.

The measure will expand the FHA program so that many homeowners at risk of facing foreclosure can refinance into viable mortgages that are government-insured. This will help many families facing ballooning mortgage payments to get their finances back on track and keep their homes.

I am particularly pleased that this legislation will increase the conforming loan limit for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac backed loans to \$625,000 in high-cost areas such as California. The current limit is far too low to make a meaningful impact in the Los Angeles area, where the average cost of a home is far above the national average.

The \$4 billion in Community Development Block Grant funds made available to states and localities to purchase foreclosed properties is also a critical component of the package. Vacant, foreclosed properties exacerbate the crisis by lowering the values of surrounding homes and neighborhoods.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation to help families keep their homes and protect their communities.

REMEMBERING THE U.N. SAFE
HAVEN OF ZEPA, BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, last Friday, July 25, marked the 13th anniversary of the 1995 fall of Zepa, a United Nations-declared "safe haven" in eastern Bosnia, to the Army of Republika Srpska. I rise to commemorate the fall of Zepa today on behalf of the thousands of Bosnian Americans who live in my District, the First District of Iowa.

Zepa was a village in eastern Bosnia declared a "safe haven" in a May 1993 U.N. Security Council Resolution. This declaration was supposed to guarantee the safety of its population, but the siege of Zepa began in the summer of 1992 and lasted until the fall of the enclave in July 1995. Throughout this period, the population suffered from continuous shelling and starvation, and many Zepa residents and refugees from surrounding areas perished.

during the siege. After the fall of Zepa, an unknown number of Bosniak males were taken away never to be seen again, including the commander of the defense of Zepa, Avdo Palic. Thousands of others were victims of "ethnic cleansing."

This 13th anniversary took place during the same week as the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, indicted on charges of genocide and other crimes by the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague. I believe that at this time it's very important to remember the tragedy that befell Zepa, and the lives that were lost there. It's also important that we support the efforts of the families of the missing to learn the fate of their loved ones, and the families of those missing and killed in their search for justice. It is only with truth, justice, reconciliation, and democratic governance that a stable and prosperous Bosnia can be built.

HONORING RICHARD BURTON
MURPHY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Richard Burton Murphy.

It is with the deepest appreciation that I pay tribute to retired Sergeant Richard Burton Murphy. May 16, 2008 marked the day Sergeant Murphy retired from the Toledo Police Department.

Sergeant Murphy began his career in law enforcement for the City of Oregon, Ohio Police Department, in January 1967. Two years later, he was appointed to the Lucas County Sheriff Office as a road deputy. In 1971, Sergeant Murphy traversed to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to obtain a new position; however, he returned to Toledo, Ohio in 1973. In March of that year, he was appointed to the Toledo Police Department where he served for 35 years. After hard work and dedication to the Toledo Police Department, he was promoted to Sergeant in 1979. Among other achievements, Sergeant Murphy served as the official and unofficial public information officers for 12 years. Additionally he performed duties in patrol, communication, and in the chief of police's office during these years. While I have the honor to acknowledge his years of public service, the citizens of Toledo, OH have given Sergeant Murphy many exceptional reports. From the Toledo/Lucas County Safety Council, he obtained the Citizen Policeman Award in 1975, Certificate of Appreciation in 1976, Good Samaritan Award in 1992, and Heroism Award in 1996. He was presented a proclamation from the Mayor's office of the City of Toledo in 1998 and 1999. Sergeant Murphy is a U. S. Navy Veteran who fulfilled active duty from 1962 to 1964, completing four years of reserve duty to follow. He is married to Patricia Ann Murphy, has two daughters Robin and Jill and 6 grandchildren. He is a member of Ottawa River Yacht Club, and plays in 3 golf leagues.

All of Toledo thanks Sergeant Murphy for his commitment to public service and helping keep safe the community of Toledo. When an officer in blue goes to work in the morning, that officer never knows if they will return home at night. Our community values and rec-

ognizes the valor, patriotism, and community-mindedness of Sergeant Murphy and his colleagues, who protect and serve a broader community beyond their family. May he find happiness and satisfaction as he enters into a new milestone of his life.

BOXING GREAT AND HEAVY-
WEIGHT CHAMPION GEORGE
FOREMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize one of boxing's most feared fighters, Mr. George Foreman. We are near the same age, and I have been a fan since I was a kid.

A product of a less fortunate family, Houstonian George Foreman was in constant trouble with the law. He vowed to make a better life for himself and later joined the Job Corp. While stationed in Oregon, Foreman became infamous for picking fights with fellow trainees. It was then that his fighting skills were noticed and he was introduced to the sport of boxing, which he grew to love. Foreman got his start as an amateur from the AAU in San Francisco.

At the age of 19, Foreman won a gold medal at the 1968 Mexico City Olympic Games. He won his first fight on points and then three fights by stoppage—including the final title bout against the favored Soviet fighter. After winning the gold, Foreman walked around the ring, holding high a small American flag following his victory. Some people chastised him for his display; others, however, lauded him for being a patriotic American during a time of political upheaval and strife. Madam Speaker, this was the most patriotic moment I had ever seen.

Foreman, after an amazing amateur record of 27–0, turned professional in 1969 with a three-round knockout of Donald Walheim in New York. He had 12 fights that year, winning all of them, 11 by knockout. Among the fighters he defeated was Cookie Wallace, who lasted only 23 seconds.

In 1970, Foreman continued his journey toward the undisputed heavyweight title. In 1971, he won seven more fights. After amassing a record of 32–0, Foreman ranked as the number one challenger by the World Boxing Association and Council. In 1972, his string of wins continued with a series of five consecutive bouts in which he defeated each opponent within three rounds.

Still undefeated, and with an impressive knockout record, Foreman was set to challenge undefeated and undisputed world heavyweight champion Joe Frazier. Foreman knocked down Frazier six times in two rounds to win the championship by knockout in one of boxing's biggest upsets. In what was HBO Boxing's first broadcast, the call made by Howard Cosell became one of the most memorable in all of sports: "Down goes Frazier! Down goes Frazier! Down goes Frazier!" Before the fight, Frazier was 29–0, with 25 knockouts, and Foreman was 37–0, with 34 knockouts. Equally memorable was Foreman's final punch, an uppercut, landed with such force that it lifted Frazier off his feet before

sending him to the canvas for the sixth and final time. As he had done following the previous knockdowns, Frazier managed to get to his feet, but the referee called an end to the bout.

Nevertheless, Foreman went on to defend his title successfully twice during his initial reign as champion. His first defense, in Tokyo, pitted him against Puerto Rican heavyweight champion Jose Roman. Roman was not regarded as a top contender, and it took Foreman only 55 seconds to end the fight, the fastest-ever knockout for a heavyweight championship bout. Foreman's next defense was against a much tougher opponent. In 1974, he faced the highly regarded Ken Norton who was 30–2, a boxer notorious for his awkward boxing style. Norton's ability to "take a punch" was suspect, and Foreman put him to the test. In an astonishing display of aggression and punching power, Foreman knocked out Norton in just two rounds. The win made Foreman 40–0 with 37 knockouts.

After losing his title to Muhammad Ali in 1974, Foreman remained inactive during 1975. In 1976, he returned to boxing in Las Vegas against Ron Lyle. After a very intense and extensive struggle by both fighters, the fight was stopped and Foreman was declared the winner. For his next bout, Foreman chose to face Joe Frazier in a rematch. Frazier at this point was 32–3 and Foreman was 41–1, but people doubted Foreman's ability. Unable to mount a significant offense, Frazier was eventually floored twice by Foreman in the fifth round and the fight was stopped. Next, Foreman knocked out Scott Ledoux in three and Dino Dennis in four to finish the year.

Foreman fought five men in one night in a 1975 exhibition. He won five straight knockouts on the comeback trail before being decked and decision-ed by Jimmy Young in Puerto Rico in 1977. Foreman stated that he saw God in his dressing room following the defeat and announced he was going to become a preacher and retire from boxing. He became a born-again Christian, dedicating his life for the next decade to Christianity. Although he did not formally retire from boxing, he did stop fighting, became an ordained minister of a church in Houston, Texas, and devoted himself to his family and his parishioners. He also opened a youth center that bears his name. Foreman continues to share his conversion experience on Christian television broadcasts such as The 700 Club and the Trinity Broadcasting Network, and has joked that Young "knocked the devil out of him".

When Foreman decided to return to the ring to raise money for his church; experts laughed, but he racked up 18 straight knockout victories. He was defeated in a title bid by Evander Holyfield. In 1994, Foreman again shocked the world by knocking out undefeated World Heavyweight Champion Michael Moorer, 39–0, to become champion again at age 45.

Shortly after the Moorer fight, Foreman faced mid-level prospect Axel Schulz of Germany in defense of his remaining International Boxing Federation title. Foreman finished the fight with an unsightly swelling over one eye, but was awarded a highly controversial majority decision. The IBF ordered an immediate rematch to be held in Germany, but Foreman refused the terms and found himself stripped of his remaining title.

In 1996, Foreman returned to Tokyo, scoring an easy win over the unrated Crawford Grimsley by a 12-round decision. In 1997, he faced fringe contender Lou Savarese, winning a close decision in a grueling, competitive encounter. Yet another opportunity came Foreman's way as the World Boxing Council decided to match him against Shannon Briggs in a 1998 "eliminator bout" for the right to face World Boxing Council champion Lennox Lewis. After 12 rounds, there was once again a controversial majority decision, but this time the victory went to Briggs. Foreman had fought for the last time, at the age of 48.

In January 2003, Foreman was elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame, where he was inducted in June. That same year, he was named boxing's ninth greatest puncher of all time by Ring Magazine.

Foreman said he had no plans to resume his career as a boxer, but then announced in February 2004 that he was training for one more comeback fight to demonstrate that the age of 60, like 40, is not a "death sentence." The bout, against an unspecified opponent, never materialized. Having severed his relationship with HBO to pursue other opportunities, George Foreman and the sport of boxing finally went their separate ways.

Life has definitely gone on after boxing for "Big George Foreman." In addition to becoming the Heavyweight Champion of the World and an Olympic Medal Winner, Olympic Hall of Famer, he wears the titles of pastor, nationally recognized spokesperson, entrepreneur, author, reality television star, mentor and role model. He has been the face of Meineke Mufflers, and countless homes in the country have the George Foreman Lean Mean Fat Reducing Grilling Machine.

In 2004, Foreman began marketing the George Foreman brand of "Big and Tall" clothes through the retailer Casual Male. He has even appeared as a judge on the second season of the ABC reality television series *American Inventor*. Foreman has four books: *The Autobiography of George Foreman*; *God in My Corner: A Spiritual Memoir*; *Going the Extra Smile*; and *Fatherhood by George: Hard-Won Advice on Being a Dad*.

On May 22, 2007, it was announced that Foreman had become a partner in the Panther Racing Indy Car team, in the Indianapolis 500; and on July 16, 2008, TV Land premiered *Family Foreman*, a reality TV show, starring George and his family.

Big George Foreman continues to be extremely active in the community. He encourages young people through his George Foreman Youth Center in Houston, and he built The George Foreman Youth & Community Center in 1984 with money saved from his 8-year retirement. Foreman wanted to create a haven for kids to hang out.

I am proud to recognize my friend whom I admire greatly, Mr. George Foreman, for his accomplishments in and out of the boxing ring. He has repeatedly shown us all that you can overcome all odds and obstacles. He is a shining testament of hard work and determination, and I applaud all of his accomplishments and service to the community.

And that's just the way it is.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 6599, the Fiscal Year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill.

Requesting Member: Representative LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART (FL-21).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, Report 110-775.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: United States Southern Command.

Address of Requesting Entity: 3511 NW 91st Ave., Miami, FL 33172-1217.

Description of Request: I received an earmark of \$81,600,000 for the second increment of funding for the construction of a new headquarters for the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) in Doral, FL. The funding will continue the work of the first installment in which SOUTHCOM received \$100,000,000 in the FY08 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill. The authorization for this funding was included in the H.R. 5658, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which passed the House of Representatives May 22, 2008. The total cost of the headquarters construction is estimated to be \$237,000,000.

Through the Department of Defense, this project has been undergone an open bid process and the planning, engineering and design phase is well underway. The funds would be used by the Department of Defense to build the new SOUTHCOM headquarters adjacent to the current SOUTHCOM facility in Doral, FL. The land for this facility is under long-term lease from the State of Florida.

RECOGNIZING VARALLO'S RESTAURANT AS IT CELEBRATES 101 YEARS IN BUSINESS

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Varallo's, Nashville's oldest continuously operated restaurant, and offer my heartfelt congratulations on its 101st anniversary.

Founded in 1907 by Frank Varallo, Sr., a former traveling musician who played for the likes of President Theodore Roosevelt, Varallo's Restaurant has been a gathering place for Tennessee's governors and legislators, Nashville's mayors and politicians, musicians and movie stars, athletes and artists, business leaders and students, and anyone who was hungry.

Four generations of the Varallo family have served their world famous "chile"—a special recipe acquired by Frank Varallo, Sr., during his travels in South America. At the age of 14, Frank Varallo, Jr., took over the business upon the death of his father. For more than 70 years, Frank, Jr., served the restaurant's

unique three-way "chile" combination to generations of Tennesseans and made a reputation for himself by providing inspirational messages that came to be known as "Thoughts from The Bottom of a Chili Bowl."

Today, great-grandson Todd Varallo, who joined the business shortly after he graduated from high school, operates the restaurant and continues to serve up the "chile" that launched the restaurant's "century of success." The restaurant also continues to be the scene of many negotiations, meetings, conferences and consultations that shape the course of Nashville and Tennessee history.

Madam Speaker, I join everyone in Tennessee's Fifth District in applauding Varallo's Restaurant, and I commend the entire Varallo family for their century-long service to the citizens of Nashville and middle Tennessee.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman HENRY E. BROWN, Jr.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Air Force.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Charleston Air Force Base, United States Air Force.

Address of Requesting Entity: Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, 29404.

Description of Project: Provide \$4.5 million for construction of an addition to C-17 flight simulator complex at Charleston AFB. This addition, which was included in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request, will allow the facility to accommodate a new six-axis flight simulator and loadmaster trainer with space for computers, briefing rooms, component and facility storage and other needed space. Training needs of the aircrews have exceeded the capabilities of the existing three simulators. If this new simulator space is not provided, established training goals will not be achieved at an airbase that currently houses two wings of C-17s currently meeting the needs of our troops deployed abroad.

HONORING SAM BOVA FOR HIS LONGTIME CIVIC EFFORTS IN SUNSET BAY, NEW YORK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a longtime businessman and civic leader in the great community of Sunset Bay, New York. Sam Bova has owned and operated the Sunset Bay Beach since the mid 1990s, consisting of two prime waterfront attractions: the Sunset Bay Beach Club, and Cabana Sam's Sunset Bay Grill.

As a businessman, Sam's business provides seasonal work to more than 150 people, and is the source of a tremendous amount of

seasonal fun in the area of northwestern Chautauqua County. His management of the Beach provides a tremendously enjoyable atmosphere for local residents as well as those who choose Sunset Bay as their summertime vacation destination.

More than just as a businessman, however, Sam Bova has been a dedicated member of the community in northern Chautauqua County, tirelessly dedicating his time and resources to dozens of local and regional charities. Of particular note is an issue very close to my own heart, Sam has a particular affinity for charities associated with the fight against cancer, and has devoted tremendous efforts in support of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, Carly's Crossing for Childhood Cancer, the Roswell Park Cancer Institute and the Leukemia Society. Moreover, Sam's support of our men and women in uniform is well known throughout the community; he has been a consistent supporter of local, regional and state police efforts, local fire and emergency services personnel, and is particularly interested in helping returning veterans to find jobs and opportunities back home in Western New York.

While summertime is always a special time in Sunset Bay, the summer of 2008 is a special time for Sam Bova. Sam celebrated his 50th birthday recently, once again in the company of his faithful employees, close friends, and uniformed members of our local police, fire and emergency services agencies. As I said before, Sam holds a very close connection to men and women in uniform, and he seeks to honor their service to our country every day. That is why I have requested that a United States Flag will fly over the United States Capitol in Sam's honor, and I plan to present that flag to him, to be flown at Sunset Bay, so that he and all those who visit Sunset Bay may continue to honor the brave men and women who serve our community and our nation so well.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you will join me in honoring a great Western New Yorker and a great friend of the community in northern Chautauqua County. Here is hoping that Sam Bova will put another 50 great years into his business and supporting the many charities he helps each day.

TRIBUTE TO DR. RON DUNHAM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Dr. Ron Dunham, a chiropractor at Dunham-Fritz Chiropractic in Marshalltown, Iowa.

For 40 years, Dr. Dunham has served Central Iowa as a chiropractor. He became interested in being a chiropractor when he hurt his back doing construction work after he returned from serving in the Army. His attraction to the profession led him to chiropractic college and back to Marshalltown where he has worked ever since. Dr. Dunham is known for being highly dedicated to his patients while having a sense of humor that lifts the spirits in the office each day. Dr. Dunham's practice successfully quadrupled in size during his time as a chiropractor, and the many years of excep-

tional service to his customers and the town of Marshalltown will be missed.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress join me in commending Dr. Ron Dunham for his service to Central Iowa. I consider it an honor to represent Dr. Dunham in Congress, and I wish him and his wife Sue, a long, happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING JOSE AND FELICE ZAMORA FOR THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of two great Americans, Jose and Felice Zamora, beloved parents, grandparents, and friends on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Jose and Felice—known to all as Tony and Phyllis—first met in the spring of 1958. They met at a Los Amigos dance at Barstow High School. After dating for only four months, they were married on August 29, 1958. Tony proposed to Phyllis in between innings of a baseball game he was playing in. She happily accepted. The two were married in a small private ceremony attended by close friends and family.

After renting a house for a year, Tony and Phyllis bought a house in Barstow, the same house they still reside in today. Tony started work as a bus boy at the Bun Boy restaurant in Barstow. He eventually worked his way up to chef, while Phyllis was a homemaker. In 1967, Tony started working as a warehouseman at the Marine Corps Logistics Base and stayed there until retiring in 1996. Phyllis began working as a housekeeper at a local hotel, and would continue for 20 years.

On July 16, 1959, the Zamoras were blessed with their son, Victor Anthony. On October 10, 1967, the Zamoras celebrated the birth of their daughter Donna Lynn. On October 19, 1981, Tony and Phyllis had their second daughter, Crystal Ann.

Family has always been the focus of the Zamora's life. And they have been blessed with six grandchildren. They have four granddaughters—Kristina Victoria Zamora, Heather Marie Zamora, Ciera Ariel Taylor, and Cienna Faith Davis. They also have two grandsons, Sebastian Antonio Taylor and Simon Antonio Taylor. In addition, they now have three great-grandsons and a fourth on the way. Children have always been a big part of Tony and Phyllis' lives, and since 1959, the sound of kids at play has filled their house in Barstow.

Growing up with Tony, we played fastpitch softball together for many years. He was a great second baseman and I feel fortunate to have such wonderful memories of our days together, all of the great tournaments we used to play in as part of the same team and our young days spent in the sun.

Having known the Zamoras nearly all of my life, I would like to extend my heartiest congratulations on their fiftieth wedding anniversary. On behalf of my wife Barbara, my family and I, felicidades, and may you have many more years of happiness. God bless you.

HONORING THE CITY OF ELKHART ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Elkhart, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

The Second District of Indiana is proud to have cities like Elkhart with its Hoosier values and entrepreneurial spirit. From RVs to musical instruments, Elkhart manufactures goods that reach across the country. This entrepreneurial spirit started early and helped Elkhart become the strong city it is today, a city of 52,000 residents that has been named as one of the nation's most livable.

Founded in 1831 by Dr. Havilah Beardsley, the city was incorporated in 1858. It grew quickly and created the first hydroelectric dam on the St. Joseph River; a dam still in use today. Elkhart was also the second city in the world to use an electric streetcar system. However, today Elkhart is probably best known for being the largest producer of recreational vehicles, earning it the nickname "RV Capital of the World."

Elkhart has a rich cultural life as well. The Elkhart Jazz Festival is considered one of America's premiere jazz festivals. Several museums and theaters also contribute to the Elkhart community. And Elkhart is planning ahead in order to maintain its vibrancy. It is building a wi-fi system that will be accessible to people along River Way.

I am proud today to pay tribute to the City of Elkhart, Indiana and its residents for 150 years of impressive history and wish them an equally prosperous future.

CONGRATULATING HEISMAN TROPHY WINNER TIM TEBOW

SPEECH OF

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. CASTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to not only a great athlete but an excellent student and role model for today's youth.

Tim Tebow exploits on the field are well documented. In addition to being the first sophomore to win the prestigious Heisman Trophy in 2007, he also received the Davey O'Brien and Maxwell Awards for his athletic achievements.

However, his off the field accomplishments warrant praise as well. Tim Tebow is a member of the Southeastern Conference Academic Honor Roll as well being an ESPN the Magazine's Academic All-American first team selection. Tim is just the fourth sophomore to ever receive first team Academic All-American honors at the University of Florida.

While majoring in Family, Youth, and Community Services, Tim Tebow has shown his dedication not only to his local community but to the entire world. He is a SEC Community Service Team Honoree as well as a member of the Goodwill Gators. Through the Goodwill Gators, he has worked to improve lives in his

community at the Children's Miracle Network at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, Florida. He has spent several summers volunteering overseas building housing and hospitals in the Philippines. As a result of his charitable work and leadership skills, Tim Tebow was awarded with the James E. Sullivan Memorial Award. The Sullivan Award recognizes leadership, character, sportsmanship, and strong moral character. He is only the second University of Florida student to ever achieve this award. Notwithstanding all of his athletic and community service activities, Tim Tebow has maintained a 3.77 grade point average.

Madam Speaker, with his achievements in the classroom, his charity in the community, and his dedication to his teammates, I honor Tim Tebow as he is not only a model for today's student-athlete but a role model for children across this Nation.

APOLOGIZING FOR THE ENSLAVEMENT AND RACIAL SEGREGATION OF AFRICAN AMERICANS

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 194, a resolution apologizing for the enslavement and racial segregation of African Americans. I thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairman CONYERS, and Congressman COHEN for their efforts to bring this resolution to the floor and affording the House of Representatives the opportunity to apologize for America's Original Sin.

Mr. Speaker, slavery in America resembled no other form of involuntary servitude known in history, as millions of Africans were captured and sold at auction like inanimate objects or animals during the 246 years between 1619 and 1865. The Africans forced into slavery were brutalized, humiliated, dehumanized, and stripped of their names, heritage, and dignity. Enslaved families were torn apart at the whim of their owners and sold as chattel.

Mr. Speaker, slavery was officially abolished with the passage of the 13th Amendment in 1865 and for the next 12 years African-Americans made fleeting political, social, and economic gains during Reconstruction, nearly all of which vanished under the system of de jure racial segregation known as 'Jim Crow,' which thrived in certain parts of the Nation for nearly the next hundred years.

Under the system of de jure segregation, African Americans could not vote, could not give evidence in court against a white person, were prohibited from marrying outside of their race, could not enter certain professions, could not serve on juries, and enjoyed few, if any, rights that whites were bound to respect. That is what the Supreme Court had decreed 27 years before in the Dred Scott decision in 1850.

Mr. Speaker, the end of Reconstruction in 1877 ushered in a period of oppression and terror for African Americans. The withdrawal of the Federal Government's protection, the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, the proliferation of the "Black Codes," and the Supreme Court's infamous decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* combined to ensure that African Americans would

treated as second-class citizens forced to lead separate and unequal lives for four more generations.

Mr. Speaker, it is difficult for many today to understand just how oppressive it was for African Americans to live under the regime of Jim Crow. For those who couldn't understand why African Americans were so impatient to overcome segregation, Dr. King explained why "we can't wait" in his Letter from Birmingham Jail:

"[W]hen you are humiliated day in and day out by nagging signs reading 'white' and 'colored'; when your first name becomes 'nigger,' your middle name becomes 'boy' (however old you are) and your last name becomes 'John,' and your wife and mother are never given the respected title 'Mrs.'; when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at tiptoe stance, never quite knowing what to expect next, and are plagued with inner fears and outer resentments; when you are forever fighting a degenerating sense of 'nobodiness' then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait."

America has made great strides in overcoming its Original Sin thanks to the modern Civil Rights Movement, which ushered in the Second American Revolution led by giants like Thurgood Marshall and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

But we still have some distance to go before we will have fully perfected our Union. Even today there remain the badges and vestiges of slavery. African-Americans continue to suffer the consequences of the damage they suffered, both tangible and intangible, to human dignity, including the loss of life, the deprivations of liberty, the long-term loss of income, and denial of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, just because we can never fully repay the debt owed to those enslaved and their descendants does not mean that we cannot acknowledge this tragic period in our nation's history and try to atone for it. That is the least we can do.

The resolution before us is an excellent start and I strongly support it.

TOM LANTOS AND HENRY J. HYDE UNITED STATES GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA RE-AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008.

The bill, which would reauthorize and expand the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, would provide \$48 billion over five years for programs to combat these three lethal diseases around the world. President Bush is expected to sign the bill into law.

President Bush deserves credit for his work on this issue. I have long supported this bold initiative that has made the U.S. a leader in this critical health and moral issue of our time. By expanding its scope, we would reach far

more people around the world and save them from these terrible diseases.

While the first five years of the initiative operated on an emergency response policy, the bill's new provisions would allow for the transition to long-term sustainability programs that can be maintained by the host countries. It would increase HIV/AIDS programs focusing on women and girls, work to better integrate the tuberculosis and malaria programs with the HIV/AIDS programs, double the U.S. contributions to the Global Fund, and strengthen language on countering HIV/AIDS for victims of sex trafficking.

Since its inception in 2003, the United States has invested more than \$19 billion to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria and helped provide anti-retroviral drug treatments to approximately 1.5 million people with AIDS. It has also supported care for 6.6 million people—including 2.7 million orphans and vulnerable children—and helped to prevent more than 157,000 infant infections.

Upon passage, over the next five years, the bill would greatly expand funding for the initiative, authorizing \$39 billion for HIV/AIDS programs, \$5 billion for malaria programs, and \$4 billion for tuberculosis programs. By 2013, U.S. support provided through PEPFAR could help prevent 12 million new HIV infections, provide medical and non medical care for 12 million people (including 5 million orphans), and train 140,000 new health care workers.

I have heard from numerous Central New Jersey residents who are concerned about the growing AIDS epidemic. This legislation demonstrates the immense compassion Americans hold for the struggles we share as a global community. When 6,000 people become infected with HIV everyday, we must offer a full commitment to fighting the disease.

CONDEMNING JULY 27, 2008 BOMBINGS IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I condemn in the strongest possible terms the bombings that shook the Gungoren neighborhood of Istanbul, Turkey on Sunday.

This was the deadliest attack to take place in Istanbul in five years, which killed 17 men, women and children and wounded more than one hundred others. I express my most sincere condolences to the families who lost loved ones and to the individuals injured in this terrorist attack.

Madam Speaker, I stand with the Turkish government and the people of Turkey in condemning these cowardly acts and hope to see those responsible brought to justice very soon.

The United States and Turkey have shared a historic partnership for the past fifty-plus years and it is during these difficult times that we must stand together.

Madam Speaker, the United States remains committed to working with Turkey in fighting terrorism in Turkey, in the United States, and around the world. I urge my colleagues to stand with me in condemning these heinous attacks.

IN HONOR OF THE OBSERVER-
REPORTER'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, on August 15 of this year, the Observer-Reporter will celebrate its 200th anniversary of providing accurate and reliable news to the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

In 1808, printers William Sample and William B. Brown were on their way to Kentucky when they stopped in The Sign of the Swan Tavern in the small village of Washington, Pennsylvania. There, they were convinced to set up shop, and on August 15, 1808, The Reporter, a weekly newspaper, was born. Ownership of the paper, as well as its name, changed hands over the next century, until John L. (Jack) Stewart and George E. Acheson formed the Observer Publishing Company on July 24, 1902.

Acheson retired in 1912, turning over ownership and the presidency to Stewart. When Stewart died in 1940, the company was turned over to his wife, Margaretta. Her grandsons John L.S. and William B. Northrop became co-owners and president and vice president, respectively, following her death in May 1966.

In 1967, the Observer Publishing Company merged its morning paper, The Washington Observer, and its afternoon paper, The Washington Reporter, into the Observer-Reporter.

Over the last three decades, the Observer Publishing Company acquired additional newspapers throughout Washington and Greene Counties. On April 17, 2000, John and Bill Northrop's sons, Tom and Bill Jr., became co-publishers of the company. Tom became sole publisher and president of the Observer Publishing Company in 2004.

Madam Speaker, today the Observer Publishing Company is one of the largest employers in Washington County. Their talented and hardworking staff produces a daily paper that reaches tens-of-thousands of subscribers in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The company is active in both the local community and the newspaper industry. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the award-winning Observer-Reporter for printing a quality news product that has been part of Southwestern Pennsylvania since 1808.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons on Tuesday July 29, 2008 I missed rollcall votes 534, 535, and 536. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ANDERSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Culinary Federation 2008 Central Region Educator of the Year, Robert Anderson of Des Moines Area Community College.

Robert is the program chair of the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Careers program and Executive Chef at DMACC. He is a certified executive chef and certified culinary educator. Robert is a member of the Honorary Order of the Golden Toque, one of only 99 such chefs in the United States. Robert trained at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) and worked in several quality restaurants across the country before joining DMACC to develop the culinary program in 1974. Robert was also selected as DMACC's Distinguished Teacher of the Year in 2000 and is a two-time recipient of the ACF Greater Des Moines Culinary Association Chef of the Year Award.

I consider it a great honor to represent Robert Anderson in the United States Congress. The expertise he brings to Central Iowa is certainly valued and I wish Robert the best as he continues serving Iowa and DMACC in the culinary profession.

HONORING THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Christ Child Society of South Bend, an all-volunteer organization that has served the community for over 60 years. In 1947, a group of women gathered in the home of founder Puddy Crowley to make baby clothes for a few needy families. Since then, the Christ Child Society has grown to a membership of over 500 and a client list of over 4,000 at-risk children and is one of the largest and most active of the 41 chapters in the United States.

The South Bend chapter is an affiliate of the National Christ Child Society, founded in 1887 by Mary Virginia Merrick in Washington, DC. An invalid, Miss Merrick turned her attention from her disability to helping the poor children of Washington. For her selfless work she received the Laetare Medal from the University of Notre Dame and the Papal Cross, among other honors, and has been declared a "Servant of God," the first step toward canonization.

Following the model of Miss Merrick, the South Bend Chapter gives infants, born to needy mothers who are often just children themselves, a bountiful layette containing items such as blankets, clothing and baby items. Children, ages one through twelve, are referred by local agencies, churches, or schools to receive new winter clothing. Each child receives a wardrobe which includes a winter coat, hat, mittens, underwear, socks and shoes, and two outfits.

The Christ Child Society expanded its services to include a project that provides

backpacks containing necessities and comfort items for children removed from homes due to abuse and neglect. Volunteers from the Christ Child Society are tutors and mentors and act as classroom helpers at one of the neediest schools in South Bend.

The increased need for clothing and the expansion of services led the Christ Child Society to move to its new location, a former school which has been filled to capacity with children's clothing. The dedication of the new clothing center marks a new chapter in the history of this vital and compassionate organization.

The Christ Child motto is "Challenging poverty, one child at a time." The dedicated members work tirelessly at purchasing, sorting, and distributing clothes and fundraising while demonstrating genuine love and concern for the children they serve. The self-esteem and joy brought to the children is one step out of the cycle of poverty.

So, today, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, I honor the members of the Christ Child Society of South Bend and extend my hope for a better life to the children they serve.

CONGRATULATING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of the House Fellows Program. As an initiative of the Office of the Historian, this program is a unique opportunity for a select group of secondary education teachers of American history and government to experience firsthand how Congress really works. They were chosen because they are educators with demonstrated excellence in the classroom.

One of the goals of the program is to develop curricular materials on the history and practice of the House for use in schools. Each Fellow will prepare his or her brief lesson plan on a Congressional topic of their choosing, and these plans will become part of a teaching resource database on the House. During the school year following their participation in the House Fellows Program, each Fellow will have the responsibility to present their experiences and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for teachers of history and government.

Since the House Fellows Program beginning in 2006, 49 teachers from around the country have participated in this innovative program. With plans to select a teacher from every congressional district over the next several years, the House Fellows Program will be able to impact thousands of high school teachers and their students, providing an inside account of how the House of Representatives functions, energizing thousands of students to become informed and active citizens. As a former teacher, I know that civic education is essential. We must continue our efforts to get our young people involved in the political process, not only in my congressional district but in districts across the country. Educating teachers about the "People's House" is one of the best ways to do that.

Among the teachers who are participating this week, I am pleased to welcome Ms. Lyntonia Coston of the Brooklyn Arts and Media High School. I know that all Members will join me in congratulating Ms. Coston and all the teachers who are participating in the 5th session of the House Fellows Program.

Ms. Lynda Good, William A. Shine Great Neck South High School, Great Neck, New York (Ackerman, NY05); Ms. Brooke Goldstein, Francis Marion Military Academy, Ocala, Florida (Stearns, FL06); Ms. Cari Gray, New Braunfels High School, New Braunfels, Texas (Smith, TX21); Ms. Monica Hiranandani, St. Bonaventure High School, Ventura, California (Gallegly, CA24); Ms. Heather Ihde, Riverdale High School, Murfreesboro, Tennessee (Gordon, TN06); Ms. Alma Ortiz, Homer Hana High School, Brownsville, Texas (Ortiz, TX27); Michael Tucker, Ewing High School, Ewing, New Jersey (Smith, NJ04).

Madam Speaker, I would like to urge all of my colleagues to join me in thanking the Office of the Historian for sponsoring this program. Under the leadership of Dr. Remini and Dr. Fred Beuttler, along with their staff; Michael Cronin, Anthony Wallis, Andrew Dodge, and Dr. Charles Flanagan; interns George Dise, Parker Williams, and Mike Ferrin; the Office of the Historian is dedicated to conserving and presenting the history of the House of Representatives, the "People's House."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF PASQUALE N. "PAT" SALVE

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant who is retiring after a 21-year career as a letter carrier with the Chester Springs Post Office in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Pasquale N. Salve was known to those on his daily route as "Pat." Co-workers described Pat as a gregarious individual who would stop to chat with residents and check in on senior citizens while making his rounds.

On Christmas Day, co-workers said Pat would stop by the Chester Springs Post Office to see if any last-minute packages needed to be delivered in time for holiday celebrations. In another example of his selfless dedication to the residents along his route, Pat would often volunteer to deliver parcels on his way home after his regular shift ended.

It often has been said of letter carriers that neither rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. Pat Salve exemplified this work ethic each day while serving the public with pride. Colleagues will acknowledge Pat's contributions to the community during a small celebration on July 31, 2008 at the Chester Springs Post Office.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in praising the outstanding service of Pasquale N. "Pat" Salve and all public servants who go beyond what is expected to serve their communities.

CONGRATULATING WKRG-TV 5 REPORTER TIFFANY CRAIG ON RECEIVING A 2008 EDWARD R. MURROW AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with both pride and pleasure that I rise today to honor Tiffany Craig, a WKRG-TV5 special assignment reporter, for receiving a 2008 Edward R. Murrow award.

A native of Scotland, Tiffany finished high school in Houston, Texas, and went on to study radio, television, and film at Sam Houston State University. Her celebrated career began at KTRK in Houston, Texas. From there, she went to work for KVII in Amarillo, Texas, and then to WBMA in Birmingham, Alabama, before joining Mobile's WKRG-TV5 in 2002.

Last year, Alabama landed one of the largest private industrial development projects in the United States, ThyssenKrupp's new \$3.7 billion state-of-the-art steel manufacturing and processing facility, and Tiffany traveled to Germany to report from the company's headquarters. She traveled across the Atlantic once again to cover the Air Force tanker competition from the Paris Air Show.

Alabama's First Congressional District and indeed the state of Alabama have been blessed with one good news economic announcement after another over the past 18 months. Tiffany and WKRG have provided widespread coverage of each of the recent economic developments for the city of Mobile. This documentary, "Mobile's Makeover," earned reporter Tiffany Craig, editor Ed Smith, photographer Jud Holson, and producer Jennifer Dale a national 2008 Edward R. Murrow Award.

Honoring outstanding achievements and excellence in electronic journalism, the Murrow Awards are given by the Radio-Television News Directors each year. This year, the Murrow Award was given to 54 news organizations representing networks, cable channels, and television stations.

Madam Speaker, Tiffany Craig's career has already been filled with much achievement, and I rise today to honor yet another of these achievements—a national 2008 Edward R. Murrow Award. May she continue to inform and inspire the people of south Alabama. I know her colleagues, her family, and her many friends join with me in praising her significant accomplishments and a job well done.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY COE HAMLING

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and a special American on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Worthy Coe Hamling was born on August 2, 1918 on the plains of South Dakota. Armed with nothing more than the dogged determination, rugged individualism and unbending family loyalty forged by a birth attended only by

his mother and God, Coe embodies the great-est qualities of America.

It was at Hamlyn University in Minnesota that he met his loving wife of 66 years, Betty. His embrace of freedom, family, and the sanctity of every human being is balanced by his unyielding sense of responsibility and self-reliance. Living in Roswell, GA, Coe proudly anchors a family of five children, ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I know the entire House of Representatives joins me in extending a hearty, happy 90th birthday to Coe Hamling—an American treasure!

HONORING ANTHONY RICCIO FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DELAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, today, as the Societa' Santa Maria Maddalena marks its 110th Anniversary, New Haven's Italian-American community also gathers to honor one of its most outstanding citizens, celebrated author and community leader, Anthony Riccio. It is my privilege to rise today to join them in recognizing Anthony for his many outstanding contributions to our community.

Since I was a child, Societa' Santa Maria Maddalena—and all of the Italian societies—have been a part of my life. People across the country struggle to create a sense of community, a sense of belonging. The Italian societies have played an important role in forging strong bonds in our community and have been charged with both preserving and celebrating our rich heritage and strong traditions. Perhaps most important was the support that they provided to families and those newly immigrating to America. Society members helped them to find employment and housing, educate themselves and their children, to become productive and active members of the community, giving them a voice and the opportunity to realize the American Dream. It has been through that sense of community—that extended family—that Italian-Americans have flourished and generation after generation share a special pride in their Italian roots.

Each year, the Societa' Santa Maria Maddalena honors an individual whose contributions to the community have furthered this mission. Anthony Riccio has most certainly done much to capture and record the history of the Italian-American experience, particularly in New Haven. His passion for culture and tradition began as a child. As so many of us did, Anthony would spend many hours with his grandmother and she would often receive letters from her family still in Italy. Anthony vividly recounts his memories of their walks through the neighborhood to find someone who could translate them. His enthusiasm and desire to understand Italian culture and history only grew as he got older.

As an undergraduate Anthony was given an opportunity that would later provide inspiration for his work as an author. Anthony spent two summers studying art history in Italy and traveled to southern Italy to find his family. As he traveled to the village of his ancestors, he marveled at the similarities between the villages and towns of Italy and that of his own

hometown neighborhood. After studying in Italy for several years, Anthony returned to the United States and began working with senior citizens in Boston's North End, many of whom were immigrants from Italy. His passion for Italian history only strengthened as he spent more time with them and he began to record their conversations to be sure that the stories were captured accurately. Anthony's first book, Boston's North End: Images and Recollections of an Italian American Neighborhood, was a compilation of those stories and its success led to his second book, The Italian American Experience in New Haven. Collections of photographs and oral histories, each brings a unique perspective of the Italian American experience in these two cities and his hometown of New Haven could not be more proud.

Today, as he is recognized by the Societa' Santa Maria Maddalena, I am honored to join all of those who have gathered this evening in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Anthony Riccio for his many invaluable contributions to our community. I would also like to extend my best wishes to him, his wife Dorothy, and his daughter, Annalisa, on this very special occasion.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DR.
CAESAR ARTHUR WALTER CLARK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Reverend Dr. Caesar Arthur Walter Clark, a remarkable and compassionate leader whose legacy has touched so many North Texans. Reverend Clarke passed on July 27, 2008. His is a deep loss felt by his family, his church congregation, the North Texas community, the State of Texas, and most assuredly, our nation. Reverend Clarke will long be remembered for his social activism and advocacy on behalf of those individuals suffering from poverty, homelessness, and injustice. He fought for the common person and his influence was far reaching, both inside and outside the African American community.

Reverend Clark was born in Shreveport, Louisiana and attended the public schools in his native state. He was converted to Christianity in 1928 at age 14. Pastor Clark began preaching in April 1929, and was ordained four years later in 1933. His first pastorate at age 19 was the Israelite Baptist Church in Longstreet, Louisiana.

Dr. Clark has served as the venerated pastor of Good Street Baptist Church in Dallas for over 58 years. He has delivered his vibrant sermons all over the world during his extraordinary career in the clergy. In addition, he has served as president of the Missionary Baptist Association of Texas and as vice president of the National Baptist Convention.

While his professional focus has always been squarely on the valued worshippers at Good Street Baptist, Dr. Clark is also an involved community leader who continues to enjoy membership on the Boy Scouts of America Advisory Committee and the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce. In addition, Dr. Clark played an active role in our Nation's civil rights struggle. Perhaps most notably he was

responsible for drawing Dr. Martin Luther King to his church in 1958 for his first of many speeches in Dallas.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Caesar A.W. Clark's life is one of dedicated service, compassion, faith and devotion. For all these reasons, please join me in expressing our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Carolyn Elaine Clark; his son, Dr. Caesar Arthur Walter Clark, Jr.; daughter-in-law, Dr. Sylvia Clark; granddaughter, Chelsi Om'Nira Clark; step daughter, Tonya Bunche; step son, Maurice Bunche and his many relatives and friends.

I urge my colleagues to please join me in conveying our gratitude to his family for sharing this great man with us, and to accept our condolences for their tremendous loss. He was an inspiration to us all.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Speaker, as per the requirements of the Republican Conference Rules on earmarks, I secured the following earmark in H.R. 6599.

Requesting Member: Congressman FRANK LOBIONDO (NJ-02).

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Air Force, Military Construction, Air National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: 177th Fighter Wing.

Address of Requesting Entity: 400 Langley Road, Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234.

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$8.4 million for the construction of Phase I of a two phase Operations and Training Facility for the 177th Fighter Wing at the Atlantic City International Airport in Egg Harbor Township, NJ. The facility will house key wing administrative functions to better enable the 177th to perform its Air Sovereignty Alert mission in defense of the homeland.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JOHN GEORGE, SUPERVISORY RESEARCH ENTOMOLOGIST AND LABORATORY DIRECTOR/RESEARCH LEADER, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE, KERRVILLE, TX

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I want to congratulate Dr. John George on the occasion of his retirement after 28 years of Federal service with the United States Department of Agriculture.

Through his continued effort and diligence, Dr. George has established a distinguished career in both academia and research. In 1979, Dr. George joined the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) as Research Leader of the Tick Research Unit of the Knippling-Bushland U.S. Livestock Insects Research

Laboratory, KBUSLIRL, Kerrville, TX. Dr. George is currently the Research Leader of all Current Research Information System projects at the KBUSLIRL, and in addition was designated Laboratory Director in 1999. Dr. George's work with the Cattle Fever Tick Eradication Program has been instrumental in protecting the U.S. cattle industry from Texas Cattle Fever Ticks.

In addition to the many contributions that Dr. George has made to the ARS, KBUSLIRL, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS, Veterinary Services, and international tick control organizations, he has been an active leader of various professional organizations. He has served as President of the Acarological Society of America, President of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America, the Southwestern Branch Representative to the Governing Board of the ESA, and Vice-chairmanship to the Parasitic Diseases Committee of the U.S. Animal Health Association. In addition, to numerous societal committee assignments he has served on the editorial boards of three ESA Journals. In 2003, his peers in livestock entomology recognized his devotion and contributions to his profession when he was presented with the Life-Time Achievement Award, sponsored by Bayer Animal Health, at the 47th Annual Livestock Insect Workers Conference, Atlantic Beach, NC.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM K. KOWALSKI, ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, DETROIT DIVISION, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of William J. Kowalski, who is retiring after 25 years of service in the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Throughout his career with the FBI he has served his country with honor and distinction.

Following his training at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia, Mr. Kowalski began his career with the Bureau in Detroit. During his time with the Bureau, Mr. Kowalski moved quickly through the ranks, a testament to his dedication and commitment to his job. He served tours of duty in Memphis, Tennessee, and New York City.

After his exceptional work in the field he was promoted to a supervisory position at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC. During his service Special Agent Kowalski was responsible for managing counterintelligence and espionage investigations. After the Berlin Wall fell Mr. Kowalski was one of the first agents to travel to Eastern Europe.

Mr. Kowalski eventually returned home to serve in Michigan, this time in a supervisory role for the Flint and Ann Arbor Resident Agencies of the FBI. In 2004, Mr. Kowalski was promoted to his current position of Assistant Special Agent in Charge in Detroit. While in this position Mr. Kowalski led Detroit's counterterrorism efforts which are so crucial to our nation's security today.

Mr. Kowalski's relentless hard work and dedication was recognized numerous times as

evidenced by his outstanding law enforcement record and repeated promotions within the Bureau. Throughout his career he has exemplified the FBI's motto of Fidelity, Bravery, and Integrity by serving and protecting the people of Michigan and citizens across United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring William J. Kowalski for his model service to United States law enforcement and his commitment to his country. He is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit documentation consistent with the new Republican earmark standards.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Fort Hood, TX.

Address of Receiving Entity: U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Hood, Bldg. 1001, Rm. W321, Fort Hood, TX 75544.

Description of Request: I have secured \$32,000,000 in funding in H.R. 6599 in the Military Construction, Army account for Unit Maintenance Facilities at Fort Hood, TX.

This funding will construct standard design unit maintenance facilities. Primary facilities to include vehicle maintenance shops, company operations facilities with covered hardstand, oil storage buildings, organizational unit storage buildings, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Maintenance Hangar, UAS taxiways and bridge, and organizational vehicle parking. Install intrusion detection systems (IDS) for arms rooms. Connect Energy Management Control System (EMCS) to base-wide network. Special foundations are required due to expansive soils. Sustainable Design and Development (SDD) and Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA05) features will be provided. Supporting facilities include electrical, water, sanitary sewer, and natural gas utilities; fire protection and alarm systems; security lighting; fencing, paving, walks, curbs and gutters; storm drainage; access roads; information systems; landscaping; and site improvements. Access for persons with disabilities will be provided in public areas. Heating and air-conditioning will be provided by self-contained units. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) measures will be provided by structural reinforcement, mass notification system, special windows and doors, high curbing, and other site improvements to secure perimeter and maintain stand-off distances. Comprehensive building and furnishings related interior design services are required. Air-conditioning (estimated 300 tons).

Fort Hood, Texas, is a strategic installation for the Army. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2009. This

project is necessary to support the troop increase requested by the Secretary of Defense as part of the "Grow the Force" initiative for the Army.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Air Force.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Fort Hood, TX.

Address of Receiving Entity: U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Hood, Bldg. 1001, Rm. W321, Fort Hood, TX 75544.

Description of Request: I have secured \$10,800,000 in authorization funding in H.R. 6599 in the Military Construction, Air Force account for a TACP Joint Air Ground Center at Fort Hood, TX.

This project will construct a Joint Air Ground Center to support the administrative, training, vehicle and equipment maintenance and storage requirements for the 3rd Air Support Operations Group and the 9th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Hood, TX. The construction will include reinforced concrete foundation and floor slabs, metal frame work, masonry walls, roof system, fire detection/protection system, utilities, pavements, site improvements, special foundations, communication support, and demolition and asbestos abatement of five facilities (3,611 SM). This project will comply with DoD antiterrorism/force protection requirements per Unified Facilities Criteria.

Fort Hood, Texas is a strategic installation for the Army. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2009. The project is necessary to support the mission of the 3rd Air Support Operations Group and the 9th Air Support Operations Squadron at Fort Hood, Texas.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman JOHN R. CARTER.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599—The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Army.

Legal Name of Receiving Entity: Fort Hood, TX.

Address of Receiving Entity: U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Hood, Bldg. 1001, Rm. W321, Fort Hood, TX 75544.

Description of Request: I have secured \$17,500,000 in funding in H.R. 6599 in the Military Construction, Army account for a Chapel with Religious Education Center project at Fort Hood, TX.

This project will construct a standard design chapel complex and religious education center. Primary facilities include a chapel complex, religious education center, administrative area, conference rooms, library, multipurpose activity area, kitchen and storage areas, fire alarm and fire suppression systems, connection to Installation Energy Management Con-

trol System (ECMS), and building information systems. Special foundations are required due to the expansive soils. Supporting facilities include electrical, water, sanitary sewer, and natural gas utilities; storm drainage; chilled water distribution; paving, walks, curbs and gutters; security lighting, information systems; landscaping and site improvements. Heating will be provided by self-contained natural gas units. Access for the handicapped will be provided. Comprehensive Interior Design package is required. Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) measures include mass notification system, structural reinforcement, special doors and windows, high curbing, and other measures to maintain stand-off distance.

Fort Hood, Texas is a strategic installation for the Army. This project was programmed to receive funding in Fiscal Year 2012, but was identified by the garrison commander as the highest unfunded priority in Fiscal Year 2009. The project is necessary to improve psychological and spiritual care for the soldiers and their families.

Military Construction projects are always 100 percent funded by the U.S. Federal Government so there is no opportunity for matching funds.

HONORING THE CITY OF MISHAWAKA ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the City of Mishawaka, which is celebrating its 175th anniversary.

The Second District of Indiana is proud to have cities like Mishawaka that exemplify Hoosier values and emphasize the importance of community. Built along the St. Joseph River and named after Princess Mishawaka, daughter of Shawnee Chief Elkhart, Mishawaka has been an evolving city reflecting the needs of the world while maintaining its own culture.

Founded in 1831 and incorporated in 1833, Mishawaka grew from a mining town to the "Peppermint Capital" to a thriving city which is now home to the only Hummer H1 and H2 assembly plants in the United States. Mishawaka is also home to the Grape Road Commercial Corridor, the second largest retail market in the State of Indiana. Mishawaka's picturesque downtown area is undergoing a revitalization with the addition of retail, restaurants and homes that maintain the small town character that defines the city.

Mishawaka has a rich cultural life as well. It is home to the Nation's largest and oldest wiffleball tournament, the World Wiffleball Championship. Mishawaka also believes in the value of neighbors and neighborhoods, demonstrated in neighborhoods intentionally built to maintain a "hometown" feel as well as a total of 27 community parks. One park contains a Japanese style garden created in honor of Mishawaka's sister city, Shiojiri, Japan.

I am proud to rise today to congratulate Mishawaka, Indiana and its 47,000 residents on 175 years of rich history and wish them a bright future.

RECOGNIZING MOBILE COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN
TYSON AND HIS WORK IN CRE-
ATING THE ALABAMA SECRET
SAFE PLACE PROGRAM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mobile County District Attorney John Tyson for his leadership and support in creating the Nation's first Secret Safe Place for Newborns program in Mobile, Alabama. As Mobile's Press-Register recently editorialized, "'Saving newborns' lives is a legacy of which Mobile can be proud."

The brainchild of former WPML-TV reporter Jodi Brooks, the Alabama Secret Safe Place program was created in 1998 through the hard work and support of John Tyson. Due to his leadership, every State has established a program similar to Alabama's as an option for mothers who are unable and unprepared to provide for their newborn baby.

These programs allow mothers to turn over their newborns to a local hospital, fire station, police station, or other public entity without being charged with a crime. Within the time limit set by each State's law, the mothers are able to remain anonymous and will not be accused of child neglect. The mothers also continue to have the opportunity, if they wish to change their minds, to return and reclaim their child.

When the Secret Safe Place for Newborns program began, it was all too common for distraught mothers, in most cases teenagers, to abandon their newborns in trash cans or in public places hoping someone would discover them. Some even went so far as to murder their unwanted babies. Due in large part to John's efforts, an estimated 500 newborns across the country have been saved over the past 10 years because of infant safe haven programs.

John often serves as the spokesman for infant safe haven programs speaking to media outlets throughout the country and around the world on efforts to combat the unsafe abandonment of newborns.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in commending District Attorney John Tyson and so many others for their efforts on behalf of newborns in Alabama and across the country. The success of the Alabama Secret Safe Place for Newborns program is a tribute to their efforts to save infants' lives—they are true heroes.

GREATER HOUSTON CONCERNS OF
POLICE SURVIVORS (C.O.P.S.)

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the Greater Houston Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.) was created to help provide resources to assist surviving families of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty. This noble organization helps rebuild the lives of those they help, and provides training to

law enforcement agencies on survivor victimization issues. They also educate the public on ways to show support for law enforcement professions and their survivors.

The Greater Houston C.O.P.S. instituted two programs that the public can join to show support for the fallen officers and their families. Project Blue Light gets residents to place a blue light in a window of a home or business. By keeping the blue lights burning, it is a constant reminder to everyone that law enforcement officers serve and protect the public "every day, every minute, and every second of the year."

The Blue Ribbon Program encourages the public and law enforcement personnel to tie blue ribbons to their car antennas during National Police Week. C.O.P.S. hopes the blue ribbons are a reminder to the public that many law enforcement officers have already paid the ultimate price and given their lives in the line of duty. They also encourage the public to display their blue ribbons outside of National Police Week, to honor those officers who are in our communities each day, putting their lives on the line to keep the public safe.

The Greater Houston C.O.P.S. is an active chapter of the national organization of Concerns of Police Survivors, Inc. and continues to advocate for citizens in the Greater Houston area to support the law enforcement officers lost, still serving, and the families of these officers.

I applaud C.O.P.S. and Greater Houston C.O.P.S. for their dedication and commitment to law enforcement and their families.

Senior Police Officer Gary A. Gryder assigned to the Southeast Division, Paroled Offender's Unit, while directing traffic was struck and killed at Katy Freeway West service road at Highway 6 on Sunday, June 29, 2008. Officer Gryder was a twenty-three (23) year veteran of the Department joining on January 7, 1985, entering Police Academy Class No. 126. He is survived by his wife, Retired Senior Police Officer Debra L. Gryder, who served the Department for over twenty-seven (27) years, his son, Austin A. Gryder and a daughter, Jennifer Streeter. He is also survived by his Father-in-law, Retired Police Officer Alfred B. Lewis, who retired from the Department after serving over thirty-one (31) years, on March 2, 1981.

Madam Speaker, I attended the funeral of Officer Gryder along with hundreds of other citizens. His wife, Debbie, and his family now join the ranks of C.O.P.S. Our communities need to constantly remember our fallen police and their families that will need to continue on without their loved ones.

And that's just the way it is.

ON THE BIRTH OF MADELYN
CLAIRE KAPLAN AND AINSLEY
ELIZABETH KAPLAN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my friend Andrew Kaplan and his wife Danleigh Kaplan of Washington on the birth of their new twin girls. Madelyn Claire Kaplan and Ainsley Elizabeth Kaplan were born on July 27, 2008,

weighing 5 pounds 2 ounces and 5 pounds 8 ounces respectively. Madelyn and Ainsley have been born into a loving home where they will be raised by parents who are devoted to their well-being and bright future.

I am so excited for this new addition to the Kaplan family. On behalf of my wife Roxanne and our entire family, we want to wish Andrew, Danleigh, Madelyn, and Ainsley all the best.

HONORING WANDA WILSON, CRNA,
PhD, MSN, PRESIDENT OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, today I pay tribute to Wanda Wilson, CRNA, PhD, MSN, of the University of Cincinnati and president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, located in my congressional district. Ms. Wilson will soon complete her year as the 2007–2008 national president of the AANA, the professional organization representing more than 39,000 Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, CRNAs, and student nurse anesthetists in the United States. She has provided strong leadership in advocating for the practice of nurse anesthesia and the patients who CRNAs serve every day.

Founded in 1931, the AANA celebrates its 77th anniversary as the professional association representing CRNAs, advanced practice nurses who administer approximately 30 million anesthetics in the U.S. every year. CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; and U.S. military, Public Health Service, and Department of Veterans Affairs health care facilities.

CRNAs provide anesthesia for all types of surgical cases and, in some states, are the sole anesthesia providers in the vast majority of rural hospitals, affording these medical facilities obstetrical, surgical and trauma stabilization services.

A resident of Cincinnati, Ohio, Ms. Wilson earned her doctorate in nursing science and physiology, a master's degree in nursing, a bachelor's degree in nursing and a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Cincinnati. She also received her nurse anesthesia diploma from Cincinnati General Hospital and her nursing diploma from Holzer Medical Center in Gallipolis, Ohio. A longtime member of the AANA, Ms. Wilson has held numerous leadership positions and served as regional director, treasurer, vice-president, and president-elect before becoming the national president of the AANA in 2007. In addition, Ms. Wilson has served terms as president and president-elect and as a member of the board of directors for the Ohio State Association of Nurse Anesthetists.

She is also the program director at the University of Cincinnati's College of Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia Major, which has been ranked one of the top nurse anesthesia educational programs nationally by U.S. News and World Report.

Adding to her professional accomplishments, Ms. Wilson has been recognized for speaking on anesthesia-related topics over the years. She has taken her experience and knowledge from the workplace and her AANA leadership role to lecture on political and academic anesthesia-related topics for different professional groups. During her AANA presidency, Ms. Wilson has advocated for CRNAs and patients before the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, and other Federal agencies. In addition, Ms. Wilson worked to bring the AANA's perspective to the national debate on how to improve veterans health care, ensuring that AANA was represented in Congressional hearings to testify about the contributions of CRNAs in the Veterans Affairs health system and the dedication with which CRNAs provide safe anesthesia care to members of the U.S. Armed Forces at home and abroad. Finally, Ms. Wilson has been an invaluable advocate in advancing reform and equity in Medicare anesthesia reimbursement in educational settings so that seniors and persons with disabilities will have access to safe anesthesia care. Legislation recently enacted by Congress to reverse Medicare payment cuts also reformed Medicare anesthesia payment teaching rules for CRNAs and anesthesiologists, a long-standing policy objective of the AANA.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me today in recognizing the outgoing president of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Ms. Wanda Wilson, CRNA, PhD, MSN, for her notable career and outstanding achievements.

H. RES. 1288 NATIONAL CAMPUS SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, each fall, students arrive on college campuses and universities across the Nation to further their education. There is a general excitement about campus life and the opportunity to live away from home for the first time with little to no rules. However, the harsh reality soon becomes evident—that campuses are not immune from the threat of crime.

Recognizing the very real presence of crime on college campuses and universities across America, I am a cosponsor of H. Res. 1288, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Campus Safety Awareness Month. This resolution designates the month of September as the National Campus Safety Awareness Month in partnership with hundreds of colleges and universities in the Nation.

As the co-chair and founder of the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus, I strongly believe that we need to raise awareness about crime issues present on campuses, such as sexual assault, stalking, hazing, and alcohol and drug abuse.

This resolution encourages our Nation's colleges and universities to promote campus safety and crime awareness prevention programs. I am proud to know that several colleges and universities from my home state of

Texas participated in the National Campus Safety Awareness Month last year, and my hope is that even more campuses and universities participate this year.

The facts are before us—from 2004–2006 there were 8,114 forcible-sex offenses, 8,923 aggravated assaults, and 37 homicides on college and university campuses. Although we would like to think that these higher education institutions are immune from such heinous acts of crime, sadly they are not.

I join with Rep. SESTAK in support of H. Res. 1288, the National Campus Safety Awareness Month, because although there is a lot of work to be done to make our campuses a safer place, this resolution is a step in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO MS. LEE STURTEVANT

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Ms. Lee Sturtevant and wish her the very best upon her 85th birthday.

Over her years of service to the County of Santa Clara, Ms. Sturtevant has continually worked within the democratic process to help raise the standard of living for those who have the least.

Ms. Sturtevant has sought to get women involved in politics and to run for office. She successfully managed the 1974 campaign of Assemblywoman Leona Egeland, who was at that time the only woman serving in the Assembly. She continues to be a highly influential and informed leader within the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee and of DAWN, Democratic Activists for Women Now.

As a high school student, she was introduced to politics and its ability to benefit society by her mother, who took her to Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee meetings. And, as a young girl, Sturtevant once dined over lunch with Eleanor Roosevelt.

Although many vibrant and youthful people of her age are enjoying retirement and relaxation, Ms. Sturtevant continues to employ her skills and dedication as a policy advisor for the office of Santa Clara County Supervisor Ken Yeager. In 1981, Lee served as my Chief of Staff when I was first elected to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. She has also worked on the staffs of other prominent Santa Clara County area elected officials.

Her career also includes working as a teacher and librarian for the Cupertino School District in addition to serving on the San Jose Unified School District Board of Education.

I would like to thank Lee Sturtevant for her service to my office and to the community of the County of Santa Clara. Best wishes upon your 85th birthday and may you celebrate many more in the years to come.

25 PINELLAS COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HONORED WITH ANNE FRANK HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, which I have the privilege to represent, has honored 25 Pinellas County High School students with the Anne Frank Humanitarian Award for their work to improve our community and our world.

These students are being recognized for their volunteer efforts in a wide variety of areas including Special Olympics, Toys for Tots, community food drives, environmental awareness campaigns, mentoring programs for the less fortunate, hurricane and disaster relief projects, supporting our troops overseas, and raising funds to support an African orphanage.

The award was established just after the attacks on our Nation that took place September 11, 2001. Irene Weiss, who is now Chairman of the Museum's Board of Directors, decided that our Nation needed to step up and honor selfless acts of kindness by young people, particularly at a time of such violence and horror. As a result, the museum has honored high school juniors from the five county Tampa area every year since 2002.

The Museum pays tribute to juniors in hope that they will become role models in their schools as seniors to let their fellow classmates know that it is never too early to become community leaders. As the award's namesake Anne Frank once said, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Madam Speaker, join me in congratulating the Pinellas County students that were honored this year. They are: Zachary Northcutt, Admiral Farragut Academy; Lady Nash, Bayside High School; Heather McShane, Boca Ciega High School; Dominic Delgado, Clearwater Central Catholic High School; Leigh Jester, Clearwater High School; Danielle Rodnizki, Countryside High School; Megan Dockerty, Dixie Hollins High School; Bo Everett, Dunedin High School; Jennifer Dipietro, East Lake High School; India Welch, Gibbs High School; Caitlan Welsh, Indian Rocks Christian School; Alyssa Boddie, Keswick Christian School; Christine McLarty, Lakewood High School; Maxwell Brickel, Largo High School; Alexandrea Wert, Northeast High School; Kathryn Keller, Northside Christian School; Jacqueline Watson, Osceola High School; Danielle Simpson, Palm Harbor University High School; Alicia Griggs, Pinellas Park High School; Caitlin DeMull, Seminole High School; Helen Kline, Shorecrest Preparatory School; Mikel Bryant, St. Petersburg Catholic High School; Amanda Emery, St. Petersburg Collegiate High School; Danielle Rossbach, St. Petersburg High School; Jessica Primiani, Tarpon Springs High School.

These youth, who are our future leaders, should remind us that our Nation is in good and capable hands. It is that volunteer spirit that has allowed our country to grow and prosper and to remain free and strong. Through their leadership, these students will become

our next generation of government, community, business, and civic leaders and I want to commend Irene Weiss and the members of the Board of Directors of the Florida Holocaust Museum for their exceptional work to recognize the talent that we have developing at such an early age.

DECRYING THE SHOOTING OF
SOUTH KOREAN TOURIST WANG-
JA PARK BY COMMUNIST NORTH
KOREA

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, this week we commemorate the 55th anniversary of the armistice which theoretically ended the armed hostilities in the Korean War. I say "theoretically" because it appears communist North Korea periodically forgets it is the party to the permanent ceasefire. For instance, in July 2003, soldiers in the DMZ exchanged machine-gun fire, with the first shots coming from communist North Korea. This particular attack was not timed arbitrarily. It occurred on the 55th anniversary of the enactment of South Korea's constitution. Fortunately, no one was hurt. Similarly, less than a year ago last August, there was an unprovoked gunfire shot from a communist North Korean guard post toward a South Korean guard post in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which separates the free Republic of Korea from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Again, fortunately, in that incident, nobody was injured.

Most recently, on July 11, 2008, a South Korean citizen, Mrs. Wang-Ja Park, was shot dead by a communist North Korean soldier while visiting a beach at Mount Keumgang, a resort that is popular with South Korean tourists who visit communist North Korea. The killing of Mrs. Park is a serious matter that deserves worldwide scrutiny. Even without the context of previous exchanges of military gunfire between North and South Korea, this event should not be considered in isolation from larger policy questions. The unfortunate and regrettable killing of Wang-Ja Park offers illumination to my view, which is shared by others, that the current administration's decision and notification to Congress to remove communist North Korea from the list of state sponsors of terrorism was premature and ill-considered. This incident lays bare the brutality of the communist North Korean regime and suggests we should continue to be vigilant. Madam Speaker, in the wake of Mrs. Park's death, we should all be concerned about the lack of cooperation by communist North Korean authorities in the investigation of the incident. South Korean investigators have been refused access to the scene of the crime by communist North Korean authorities, and there are serious discrepancies in accounts made by eyewitnesses and by the communist North Korean government.

I strongly urge communist North Korea to cooperate fully with South Korea on a joint investigation into this terrible tragedy. The South Korean government has rightly suspended tours to Mount Keumgang and the suspension should continue until a joint investigation has been completed and North Korea's communist

government assures this will not happen again. To do otherwise would simply whitewash the incident.

Apart from the very serious foreign policy ramifications of this tragic event, I wish to convey my sincere condolences to the family of Mrs. Park and to all South Korean citizens who have been shocked and dismayed by her death, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

The people of South Korea should know Americans are thinking about them, about their safety and security, and we remain committed to the shared verities of ordered liberty and democracy which make our nations—the Republic of Korea and the United States of America—prosperous, free, and compassionate.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF U.S.
DISTRICT JUDGE THOMAS G. HULL

HON. DAVID DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday July 30, 2008

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and life of U.S. District Judge Thomas G. Hull, who passed away Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

Judge Hull lived a life of public service and truly embodied the Tennessee Volunteer spirit. He was known by all for his compassion, integrity and dedication to public service throughout his 82 years of life.

Judge Hull served in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, was a Tennessee State Representative, and a state and federal judge. Judge Hull's passion was evidenced in everything he did whether it was serving as Chief Clerk of the Tennessee General Assembly or as campaign manager for James H. Quillen's first campaign for U.S. Congress.

Judge Hull was appointed as U.S. District Judge by President Ronald Reagan and at times handled the entire caseload for the Eastern District of Tennessee because of judgeship vacancies. He served 23 years with the federal branch of government including 7 years as Chief Judge of the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Judge Hull played a major role in the construction of the James H. Quillen United States District Courthouse to replace the old and overcrowded courthouse in Greeneville, Tennessee.

Judge Hull was active in the business and banking communities and was active in the Republican Party of Tennessee.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the House join me today in offering our sympathies to the family and friends of U.S. District Judge Thomas G. Hull. He was a family man, a compassionate public servant and true friend of the First District of Tennessee.

His service is greatly treasured, and he will be deeply missed.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY WAYSIDE
RESTAURANT AND BAKERY

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. WELCH of Vermont. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today in celebration of the 90th birthday of a well-known Vermont establishment, the Wayside Restaurant and Bakery.

Located on the town line of Berlin and the city of Montpelier, the Wayside was built and opened in the summer of 1918 by the Ballou family. Located on Route 302, the Wayside has offered a convenient stopping place for travelers and locals alike for generations.

When the Wayside was first opened, it did not offer a dine-in service, but rather functioned as a take-out restaurant. The size of the Wayside has grown considerably since 1918, and the restaurant now boasts a 160-seat dining room and a kitchen of equal size.

Nearly all of the Wayside's food—including its renowned breads and desserts—are homemade, and produce from local farms is frequently used. The menu features traditional Vermont dishes like salt pork and chicken pie, and a wide-range of other country favorites.

Serving an average of 1,000 customers each day, the Wayside caters to a diverse clientele. Primarily a place for local Vermonters to enjoy good company and food at affordable prices, the Wayside also attracts legislators, state employees, and tourists. The parking lot is always full, and for weekend brunch, the line runs out the door. Yet despite its incredible popularity, the restaurant maintains a relaxed and authentic atmosphere.

Though recognized nationally by publications such as the New York Times and Gourmet Magazine, the Wayside remains a locally-oriented restaurant, embracing the surrounding community. When the Red Sox won the 2004 World Series, the Wayside's current owners, Karen and Brian Zecchinelli, joined in the local celebration by hosting a rally and rolling back prices to 1918. More than 3,000 customers visited the Wayside for the festivities. It is a true fixture in Central Vermont.

I would like to thank Karen and Brian Zecchinelli for continuing to provide the Vermont community with exceptional food, service, and atmosphere. The Wayside is a wonderful Vermont institution. Congratulations to the Wayside on its 90th birthday. May it continue to serve our community for another 90 years.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding an earmark I received as part of H.R. 6599, The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs FY09 Appropriations bill.

Requesting Member: Congressman JERRY MORAN

Bill Number: H.R. 6599
 Account: Army Reserve
 Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Reserve, 89th Regional Readiness Command
 Address of Requesting Entity: 2120 G. Washington Blvd., Wichita, KS 67210
 Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$8,100,000 to support the Department of Defense's request to construct a U.S. Army Reserve Center at Dodge City, KS. This project will provide land and facilities with adequate administrative, training, assembly, and supply/storage areas to support the assigned units' requirements and operations. A new organizational maintenance shop (OMS) will provide space for training and to conduct vehicle maintenance activities and operations. A military equipment park (MEP) is included to accommodate vehicles and equipment for the assigned units. A privately owned vehicle (POV) parking area is also included to accommodate the drilling population.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding requests I received as part of H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act of Fiscal Year 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009

Account: Military Construction, Additional Defense Access Roads funding for Fort Bragg Access Roads, Phase I (Bragg Boulevard/Murchison Road).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: BRAC Regional Task Force, Inc. Fort Bragg, NC and the President's FY09 Budget Request.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA.

Description of Request: This request supports the President's FY09 Budget request level of \$13.24 million for additional Defense Access Roads Funding for Fort Bragg, Phase I (Bragg Boulevard/Murchison Road). The increase is due to revisions to the original project necessitated by BRAC and other mission growth at Fort Bragg. This is a high priority security project to close Bragg Boulevard to public traffic through Fort Bragg. This action is necessary to ensure the safety of the new FORSCOM HQ which is being built in close proximity to Bragg Boulevard. The project will widen Murchison Road to flow traffic around Fort Bragg and includes two new interchanges to access control points at Fort Bragg. The project is currently being planned and designed by North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in two phases. This increase is needed for Phase I which will widen NC 210 (Murchison Road) to six lanes beginning at the new I-295 Fayetteville Outer Loop interchange and continue north to include a new interchange at Honeycutt Rd. The new interchange, rather than an at-grade crossing is the reason for the additional funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Additional Defense Access Roads funding for Fort Bragg Access Roads, Phase I (Bragg Boulevard/Murchison Road).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: BRAC Regional Task Force, Inc. Fort Bragg, NC and the President's FY09 Budget Request.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA.

Description of Request: This request increases the Department of Defense funding authorization from the President's FY09 Budget level of \$13.24 million by an additional authorization for \$8.56 million. The increase is due to revisions to the original project necessitated by BRAC and other mission growth at Fort Bragg. This is a high priority security project to close Bragg Boulevard to public traffic through Fort Bragg. This action is necessary to ensure the safety of the new FORSCOM HQ which is being built in close proximity to Bragg Boulevard. The project will widen Murchison Road to flow traffic around Fort Bragg and includes two new interchanges to access control points at Fort Bragg. The project is currently being planned and designed by North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in two phases. This increase is needed for Phase I which will widen NC 210 (Murchison Road) to six lanes beginning at the new I-295 Fayetteville Outer Loop interchange and continue north to include a new interchange at Honeycutt Rd. The new interchange, rather than an at-grade crossing is the reason for the additional funds.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009

Account: New Elementary School (DoDEA)
 Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg and the Department of the Army.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA.

Description of Request: This request supports the \$28.17 million requested in the President's FY09 Budget for a new elementary school on Fort Bragg. This funding is required to accommodate enrollment increases due to new housing being built for the Army's Residential Communities Initiative program. The Family Housing Construction program will construct 446 new housing units at Ft. Bragg, resulting in an influx of approximately 714 students (PK through 5th grade) above present capacity. The community schools at Fort Bragg have a current enrollment of 4,517 students. As a result of new housing being added to the main cantonment area, the schools are projected to be filled to capacity. The additional 446 family housing units being constructed in the Northern Training Area will require a 714 student elementary school to be constructed to serve the housing area. Existing schools in the main cantonment area were constructed based on outdated Department of Education and state standards, resulting in undersized classrooms, administrative, and other areas. Adding additional students beyond maximum capacity will adversely affect the quality of the educational programs and greatly limit the number of educational programs offered to students. The influx of students resulting from the Army's Residential Communities Initiative program cannot be supported within current district capacity. New construction is

the only method of obtaining the space needed to accommodate the enrollment projected to arrive within the next 3 years. Without this additional capacity, the Army's Residential Communities Initiative program and student education at Fort Bragg would be adversely affected.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Utilities Upgrade for Camp MACKALL (Fort Bragg).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA This request is in support of the FY09 President's Budget Request for \$3.2 million for a Utilities Upgrade at Camp MACKALL (Fort Bragg) and this project is necessary to support the expansion of Camp Mackall, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The Rowe Training Facility (RTF) at Camp Mackall is being expanded to support an increase in its mission of providing Special Forces (SF) qualified soldiers from a current level of 350 per year to 950 per year. The number of all students passing through the Rowe Training Facility annually will increase from 1,000 trainees to 2,700 annually. The Survival, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape (SERE) training course at Camp Mackall will increase from 350 per year to 950 per year. New water, sewage, storm drainage, gas, electric and communications lines will have to be run to support the rapidly expanding training activities at the base.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, New Intermediate School (Irwin) (DoDEA) Fort Bragg, NC

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA.

This request is in support of the FY09 President's Budget Request for \$27.945 million for a new DoDEA intermediate school at Fort Bragg, NC. This school is needed to accommodate 725 students and support present curriculums selected for that age group. Most of the current school facility was constructed in 1962 with seven additions built in various years starting in 1964. The Extended Facilities Condition Index (EFCI—current facility maintenance or repair requirement/replacement cost) is 72%. An EFCI of this value indicates replacement is more cost effective than continuing to address facility maintenance and repair needs. Many of the school's programs are conducted in twelve re-locatable, temporary buildings which are all old, undersized and not suitable for the programs. Space limitations also require many programs to share the same classrooms. The school has force protection issues that will be resolved by this project. Significant health and safety issues exist to include non-fire rated transom windows in all corridors, no fire sprinkler system

in the facility, non-fire rated interior doors and many roof leaks. These deficiencies are costly to rectify.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, New Middle School (DoDEA) Fort Bragg, NC

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA.

This request is in support of the FY09 President's Budget Request for \$22.356 million to construct a new middle school in the Northern Training Area at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. A new middle school is required to accommodate enrollment increases due to new housing being built for the Army's Residential Communities Initiative program. The Family Housing Construction program will construct additional new housing units and upsize most of the existing units to 4 or 5 bedrooms at Ft. Bragg, resulting in an influx of approximately 550 students (6th through 8th grade) above present capacity. The community schools at Fort Bragg have a current enrollment of 4,517 students. As a result of new housing being added to the main cantonment area, the schools are projected to be filled to capacity. The additional 1,524 family housing units being constructed in the Northern Training Area will require a 550 student middle school to be constructed to serve the housing area. Existing schools in the main cantonment area were constructed based on outdated Department of Education and state standards, resulting in undersized classrooms, administrative, and other areas. Adding additional students beyond maximum capacity will adversely affect the quality of the educational programs and greatly limit the number of educational programs offered to students. With the NTA being separated from the main cantonment area this new school is also needed to cut down on student bussing and associated costs to both the school district and parents. The influx of students resulting from the Army's Residential Communities Initiative program cannot be supported within current district capacity. New construction is the only method of obtaining the space needed to accommodate the enrollment projected to arrive within the next 3 years. Without this additional capacity, the Army's Residential Communities Initiative program and student education at Fort Bragg would be adversely affected.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Training Support Center, Fort Bragg.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA.

This request is in support of the FY09 President's Budget Request for \$20.5 million to Construct a Standard Training Support Center (TSC). Existing substandard warehouse buildings do not have additional capacity to support increased training aids and devices. This project is needed to ensure Fort Bragg can protect its training devices from the environ-

ment and the weather. Otherwise they are facing drastically reduced useful life.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, SOF Expand Training Compound—USSOCOM Fort Bragg.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA.

This request is in support of the FY09 President's Budget Request for \$14.2 million for a Special Operations Forces (SOF) Training Compound Expansion in support of USSOCOM at Fort Bragg. This funding will serve to renovate and expand MacRidge Training Compound to support close quarters and urban combat training.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, SOF Headquarters Facility, USSOCOM Fort Bragg.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA. This request is in support of the FY09 President's Budget Request for \$14.6 million for a Special Operations Forces (SOF) Headquarters Facility at Fort Bragg, NC. This funding will be used to construct a Battalion Headquarters for the 112th Special Operations Signal Battalion (112th SOSB) so that they can accommodate their Department of the Army ordered personnel expansion and meet their requirements.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, SOF Expand Training Compound—USSOCOM Fort Bragg.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA. This request is in support of the FY09 President's Budget Request for \$14.2 million for a Special Operations Forces (SOF) Training Compound Expansion in support of USSOCOM at Fort Bragg. This funding will serve to renovate and expand MacRidge Training Compound to support close quarters and urban combat training.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, SOF Security Force Protection, Pope AFB/ Fort Bragg, NC.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg Address of Requesting Entity.

Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA. This request is in support of the FY09 President's Budget Request for \$4.15 million to be used for SOF Security/Force Protection (ACC-14th ASOS) at Pope Air Force Base/Fort Bragg. This request supports Joint Special Operations Command.

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBIN HAYES.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Military Construction, Fort Bragg, NC.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Fort Bragg.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 70999 Fort Bragg, NC 28307, USA.

This request is in support of the FY09 President's Budget Request for \$5.3 million for a SOF Training Facility at Fort Bragg. This will construct a two story training facility to support USSOCOM joint operations.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
CONNIE FINTON FOR BEING
NAMED THE LUCILLE
NUSSDORFER TUSCARAWAS
COUNTY WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Ms. Finton has made a lasting impact on the quality of life in Tuscarawas County; and

Whereas, she is an innovator for local youth programs such as "Got Milk? Got Cookies? Got Books?" and the Fit Youth Initiative; and Whereas, Ms. Finton is a driving force in the Tuscarawas County for the education of the dairy and agriculture industry; and

Whereas, Ms. Finton has been an active member of the Union Hospital Auxiliary for thirty years; and

Whereas, she has selflessly served the needs of her community and encourages those around her to do the same: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved That along with her friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend and thank Connie Finton for her service to the State of Ohio. Congratulations to Connie Finton on her selection as the Lucille Nussdorfer Tuscarawas County Woman of the Year.

HONORING MOON KHAN

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Moon Khan for his devoted service to DuPage County and the State of Illinois.

Moon started serving the community as an anchor on the Indian community's cable television program Bharat Darshan, also working as Community Editor of the India Tribune and Chief Editor of Spotlight Weekly. After earning M.A. and M.B.A. degrees from Northern Illinois University, he founded the Asian American Caucus of DuPage, serving as its first President. From his early dedication to scholarship and community service, Moon has become heavily involved in local government and commerce, serving as a vocal advocate for the Asian American community.

As a member of the Illinois Ethnic Coalition, Moon has advocated for the rights of new immigrants and various ethnic groups, assisting them in the transition to American culture and

helping with the preservation of their heritage. His commitment to unity resulted in Moon being presented the Americanism Award by the Society of Daughters of the American Revolution in 2005.

In April of 2005, Moon was elected as a Trustee for York Township, becoming the first Asian American to be elected to that office and the first Muslim elected to government office in the State of Illinois. As a result of his commitment to serving the Asian American community, Moon was appointed as the Asian American Liaison of the DuPage County Republican Party.

Moon Khan has been an advocate for the rights of immigrants, Muslims, and other ethnic groups. His committed service to empowering all ethnicities has affected countless lives throughout the State of Illinois.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Moon Khan is a remarkable man who has dedicated his life to serving the people of DuPage County and the State of Illinois. Please join me in honoring him for his public service and recognizing the important work he is doing to build a stronger, better America.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding a district funding request as part of H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2009.

1. Florida Army National Guard, Regional Training Institute (RTI) Phase IV at Camp Blanding, FL (Department of Defense, Army National Guard) Project ID: 04ee1.

This project is to complete construction of the RTI at the Camp Blanding Training Site, FL. The readiness of the Florida Army National Guard and Air National Guard in general will be affected if the school cannot adequately accomplish its mission to train soldiers. The student quota continues to grow with the need for new training requirements.

The new campus will serve the full-time mission of the RTI. The completion of the new campus will allow the school to accept all projected students and to provide the support needed to run the regional school. The new campus will provide the school with the area required to adequately perform its essential mission. It will house, feed, teach, and train all students attending the institute; students are from all fifty states and territories. The school averages 800 students per cycle.

DON PITTMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor long-time restaurateur Don Pittman, as he was inducted into the Texas Restaurant Association Hall of Honor in June

2008. From Bar-B-Q to fresh seafood to Cajun delights, Texans take their food very seriously. For Don to receive this honor, he must have done some significant work.

Pittman has been in the restaurant business for almost forty years. His career began in 1970 in Fredericksburg, Texas. He spent some time in Austin before deciding that he should branch out and carve a place for himself. He searched for a location with a community with a positive attitude and decided that Southeast Texas was the best place to start.

Don moved to Beaumont in 1985 and opened eight Short Stop Burger locations across Southeast Texas. He operated these restaurants in Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange until the late 1990s. In 1998, he opened a Schlotzky's Deli in Beaumont and another in Port Arthur in 2002. Pittman will serve as President of the Sabine Area Restaurant Association beginning this August. This will be his second term, as he previously served from 1991–1993.

The Texas Restaurant Association Hall of Honor is the highest recognition that a member of the Association can receive. Winners are selected by a committee made up of past TRA presidents and Hall of Honor members. Individuals are honored for their commitment to the foodservice industry, the Association and their communities. This year, they chose to honor Don Pittman for his continuing excellence in serving Southeast Texas.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud Don Pittman for his dedication to serving some of the best food in the entire State of Texas.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY WORDS OF INSPIRATION FROM FALLUJAH, IRAQ

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Americans all over our Nation honored our fallen heroes for Memorial Day. We gathered in our national cemeteries, at veterans posts, and at town halls to say thank you to those who paid the ultimate price for freedom and to their families who suffered the greatest of losses.

Many forget that today's heroes also celebrated Memorial Day in the far corners of the world, including the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. One such Memorial Day ceremony took place in Fallujah, Iraq, the site of some of the fiercest fighting and where many of our troops gave their lives.

Marine Corps Major General John F. Kelly led the service for our troops in Fallujah saying, "There is something about looking out at real Americans who know the price paid for our protection, and the world's freedoms. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines—heroes all."

General Kelly knows personally of service and sacrifice, as he is on his third tour of duty commanding Marines in Iraq, his third tour away from his family. He also has two sons serving as Marines in Iraq.

General Kelly told his Marines, "Our countrymen at home should be on their knees every day thanking God we still have enough

young people in America today willing to take up the fight as our veterans did from the earliest days of our Nation. They should know that they are protected today by men and women as good as have ever served; as good today as their fathers were in Vietnam, and their grandfathers were in Korea and World War II. In this, my third tour in Iraq, I have never seen an American hesitate, or do anything other than lean into the danger and, with no apparent fear of death or injury, take the fight to the enemies of our way of life."

Those who serve make many sacrifices including having to endure the horror of war. As General Kelly told his troops, "You are all heroes and like many veterans throughout our history, many of us have endured things—sights, sounds and horrors—that will haunt us for the rest of our lives. I know I find great comfort that because I am here those I love and have sworn to protect will never have to deal with memories so terrible. I hope you who have seen these things have the same sense of purpose and balance when you relive the scenes of violence, and of decisions made. America's Armed Forces today know the price of being the finest men and women this nation has to offer, and pay it we do every day in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Madam Speaker, following my remarks, I would like to include for the benefit of my colleagues the full text of General Kelly's letter to his Marines. It is from the heart and it is to the point of what every American service member and their families give to our Nation in the defense of freedom and liberty. General Kelly concludes his message by reading a letter no officer wants to write, that to the mother or father, husband or wife, brother or child of a fallen warrior. In this case it is to the mother of Jonathan Yale, a Marine who died protecting an Entry Control Point in Ramadi, Iraq from a suicide bomber driving a truck loaded with explosives. He and fellow Marine Jordan Haerter fired upon the truck until it exploded before breaching their security point. They both died during their job that day and in so doing saved the lives of 50 other Marines and countless Iraqi policemen.

General Kelly wrote to Jonathan's mother, "I have 25,000 Marines under my care here in Iraq, and I fear for their lives every minute of every day as if they were my own. They are out there every day and every night patrolling the most dangerous places on earth for millions of people at home they do not even know. In times of weakness I wonder why they come, young men like Jonathan, why they come when no one makes them. When everything in our society seems to say 'what's in it for me,' those like your son think of others—not themselves."

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that every member of this House will read General Kelly's powerful and poignant words and take them to heart as we thank him and every American who goes into harm's way on a daily basis to protect us and our way of life.

MAY 25, 2008.

WORDS FROM A MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IN FALLUJAH, IRAQ

FALLUJAH, IRAQ.—Major General John F. Kelly dispatched a letter from Iraq stating that they held their Memorial Day ceremony in Fallujah today and it was inspiring.

"Something about looking out at real Americans who know the price paid for our protection, and the world's freedoms. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines—heroes all," Kelly said.

The General continued: "First, a few statistics to ponder. There are twenty-five million living American Veterans. Since General George Washington commanded the Continental Army, forty-two million Americans have served the colors.

A million have been killed in its defense. Another million and a half wounded. When most of us think about military cemeteries the first thought that comes to mind is Arlington National in Washington, but there are many, many more in the U.S.

Most Americans also don't know there are 24 American cemeteries maintained overseas with 125,000 graves of our fallen—61,000 in France alone—the result of two wars that saved Europe and the world from horrors unimaginable to Americans today; unimaginable, that is, unless you are a Veteran who has seen the terrible face of war so those who remained safe in America, and those yet unborn, would never have to.

There are also memorials overseas to an additional 94,000 Americans who were lost at sea, or their remains never recovered from battlefields around the globe. With all this service and loss, we as Americans can be proud of the kind of people we are as we have never retained a square foot of any country we have defeated, we possess no empire, nor have we enslaved a single human being.

On the contrary, billions across the planet are today—and billions yet unborn—live free because our Veterans have fought and died, and, once peace achieved, we've rebuilt destroyed cities, economies, and societies.

Memorial Day was established three years after our terrible Civil War that finally established what kind of nation we would be. A war in which 600,000 young Americans—North and South—perished. For a century the day continued to mean visiting and decorating graves or town-square memorials to those who died serving our great nation, and celebrating with parades and civic events.

Americans kept the day quiet, pausing to remember, at least for a little while, the kind of men and women they were who gave the last full measure, and the immensity of the sacrifice they made for those who remained protected at home.

Americans should not forget this weekend or any weekend as they relax with a few days off that the country is at war, and a new Greatest Generation is fighting a merciless enemy on their behalf in the terrible heat of Iraq, and in the mountains of Afghanistan. Like it or not America is engaged in a war today against an enemy that is savage, offers no quarter, whose only objectives are to either kill every one of our families in our homeland, or enslave us with a sick form of extremism that serves no God or purpose that rational men and women can understand.

Given the opportunity to do another 9/11, our vicious enemy would do it today, tomorrow and every day thereafter. I don't know why they hate us, and I frankly don't care and they can all go to hell, but they do hate us and are driven irrationally to our destruction. The best way to fight them is somewhere else and that is why we are here. For whatever reason they want to destroy our way of life, our countrymen at home should be on their knees every day thanking God we still have enough young people in America today willing to take up the fight as our Veterans did from the earliest days of our nation.

They should know that they are protected today by men and women as good as have ever served; as good today as their fathers were in Vietnam, and their grandfathers were in Korea and World War II. In this my third tour in Iraq I have never seen an American hesitate, or do anything other than lean into the danger and, with no apparent fear of

death or injury, take the fight to the enemies of our way of life.

As anyone who has ever experienced combat knows, and many of you do, when it starts, when the explosions and tracers are everywhere and the calls for the Corpsman or medic are screamed from the throats of men who know they are dying—when seconds seem like hours and it all becomes slow motion and fast forward at the same time—everything in one's survival instinct says stop, get down, save yourself—yet you don't.

When no one would call you coward for cowering behind a wall or in a hole looking to your own self preservation, none of you do. It doesn't matter if it's an IED, a suicide bomber, mortar attack, fighting in the upstairs room of a house, or all of it at once—America should know you fight today in the same way our warriors have since the Revolution.

The wonderful thing about America's Armed Forces is that none of us are born killers. On the contrary we are good and decent Americans mostly from the neighborhoods of America's cities, and small towns. Almost all come from "salt of the earth" working class homes, and more often than not are the sons and daughters of cops and firemen, factory and service workers, and farmers.

Most of us delivered papers, stocked shelves in the grocery store, played Little League baseball and pickup hockey in the local rink, and served Mass on Sunday morning. Some are former athletes, and many "couch potatoes" who drove our cars and motorcycles too fast, and blasted our music louder than perhaps we should have.

We are all ordinary people performing remarkable acts of bravery and selfless acts of devotion to a cause bigger than ourselves—and for millions who will never know our names. Any one of us could have all stayed in school or gone another way, but yet we chose to serve knowing full well Iraq and Afghanistan was in our future. You did not avoid the most basic and cherished responsibility of a citizen—to defend the nation and its people—on the contrary, you went after it.

You did not fail in life, which the chattering class back home likes to believe is why you chose to serve and risk dying for the nation, but, rather, are the best our nation produces and have consciously put every American at home above your own self interest. You are all heroes and like many Veterans throughout our history many of us have endured things—sights, sounds and horrors—that will haunt us for the rest of our lives.

I know I find comfort that because I am here those I love and have sworn to protect will never have to deal with memories so terrible. I hope you who have seen these things have the same sense of purpose and balance when you relive the scenes of violence, and of decisions made. America's Armed Forces today know the price of being the finest men and women this nation has to offer, and pay it we do every day in Iraq and Afghanistan.

More than four thousand of us have died in this war, and ten-times this number have been wounded. And the sacrifice continues as young Americans have gone to God since we all went to bed last night and slept free and protected.

Their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, wives, husbands, and fiancés are sitting in their living rooms right now with casualty officers learning the true price of freedom, and are only just beginning a life-long struggle of dealing with the pain and loss of someone so dear, but they are not victims as they knew what they were about and were doing what they wanted to do.

Many of today's self-proclaimed experts and media commentators endeavor to make

them out to be victims but they are wrong, and this only detracts from the decision these patriots made to step forward and protect the country that has given so much to all of us. We who are serving, and have served, demand not to be categorized as victims—we are not.

Those with less of a sense of service to the nation never understand it when strong and committed men and women stand tall and firm against our enemies, just as they can't begin to understand the price paid so they and their families can sleep safe and free at night—the protected never do.

What the experts, commentators, and elites are missing, what they will also never understand, is the sense of commitment, joy, and honor, of serving the nation in its uniform, but every American Veteran, and their loved ones who support them and fear for them every day, do understand.

We should all be confident that this experiment in democracy we call America will forever remain the "land of the free and home of the brave" so long as we never run out of tough young Americans willing to look beyond their own self interest and comfortable lives, and go into the darkest and most dangerous places on earth to hunt down, and kill, those who would do us harm.

In closing I wanted to share a story that you may not be aware of that took place only a few miles from here in Ramadi. On 22 April 2nd Battalion 8th Marines and 1st Battalion, 9th Marines were in the process of turning over a Joint Security Station Nasser.

It's in the Sophia district of Ramadi, and was once the center of the insurgency in that city. Two Marines who barely knew each other as one was coming and the other going were standing guard at the Entry Control Point (ECP); their names were Jonathan Yale and Jordan Haerter.

At 0745, and without warning, a large truck accelerated towards the ECP, careening off the protective serpentine. Both must have understood on instinct what was happening as in less than a second they went to the guns and opened fire until the massive 2,000 lb blast took their lives—but the suicide bomber never passed the post they protected, and 50 other Marines and perhaps as many police didn't die that day inside the JSS.

I spoke to several Iraqi police eyewitnesses and they all told the same story, but one more emotionally than the others.

He said no sane man would have stood there directly in the path of a speeding truck firing their weapons—yet two did. His officers, some as close as ten feet initially from the Marines, fired and ran when it was obvious the truck could not be stopped—and they survived. The Marines stood their ground and stopped the truck before it detonated, and saved the lives of their buddies.

A sacred duty of every commander in combat, yet the one we dread the most, is writing letters home to families who have lost a son or a daughter. I wanted to close by reading you a letter I wrote that night to the mother of one of those two heroes that for me sums up who and what we are as warriors and Veterans, why we serve, and how we will remember each other."

22 APRIL 2008.

I know there is nothing I can write tonight that will help you deal with the loss of your son Jonathan. I do hope you can find some comfort as I try to help you understand what he was doing for every American when he was taken from us all. He was standing watch on a nameless side street in Ramadi at the entrance of a compound that housed a large number of Marines, Iraqi Police, and civilians. In the early morning a truck turned down towards the entrance and ignored the visual warnings he gave to stop.

Jonathan and the Marine he was with must have sensed immediately what was taking place as they went to the guns quickly and fired a very high volume of automatic weapons fire, undoubtedly killing the suicide driver, but not before he detonated the massive blast that took their lives. His fellow Marines did what Marines have done from the beginning of our history, something they do almost without thinking and always without hesitation—they risked their own lives to save his, but he was already gone to God. Mrs. Pride, because of your son and that other Marine, nearly fifty other American families are not mourning tonight; their sons' lives were saved by two Marines who would not abandon their post even to the point of death.

I did not know your son, Mrs. Pride, but I am sure he was just like every Marine I have known in the three decades and more that I have served. Like my own two sons who are Marines and have served here in this war, I bet he was a good looking young man, fun loving, into sports and a good son—but not perfect—boys never are. He was also different, Mrs. Pride, because he chose to leave the comfortable and safe confines of his home and walk a different path than all the rest. The path he chose led him to be one of the nation's finest, to be a Marine. When he did not have to raise his right hand and swear before his God to serve and protect this nation and its people, he did just that. We all owe him an eternal debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. We also owe you, Tammy, and all who loved him a debt—one that can never be settled.

I have 25,000 Marines under my care here in Iraq, and I fear for their lives every minute of every day as if they were my own. They are out there every day and every night patrolling the most dangerous places on earth for millions of people at home they do not even know. In times of weakness I wonder why they come, young men like Jonathan, why they come when no one makes them. When everything in our society seems to say "what's in it for me," those like your son think of others—not themselves. I did not know your son, Mrs. Pride, but I will never forget him. I will keep him in my thoughts and prayers for the rest of my life.

With deepest sympathy,

Major General John F. Kelly, U.S. Marine Corps, Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, in accordance with House Republican Conference standards, and clause 9 of rule XXI, I submit the following member request for the RECORD. Funding for this request was contained in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Georgia National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Georgia Department of Defense, P.O. Box 1970, Marietta, GA 30061.

Description of Request: This request is in support of President Bush's FY '09 budget

submission and provides \$45,000,000 for a National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters and Readiness Center to be constructed at Naval Air Station (NAS) Atlanta. This project is contained in the Army National Guard's Future Years Defense Program, and funding for it is critical to ensure a smooth transition for the Georgia National Guard to NAS Atlanta by 2011.

This facility is required to house all elements of the Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, and the 118th Personnel Service Detachment of the Georgia Army National Guard. It will also house the headquarters of the Georgia Air National Guard and the multiple departments of the Georgia Department of Defense. The readiness center will provide the necessary administrative, training, and storage areas required to achieve proficiency in required training tasks.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM STIFTER FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON STATE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the Eastern Washington community to celebrate and honor the life of Dr. William Stifter whose work with cardiac patients across our State has saved countless lives.

Dr. Stifter made significant contributions to cardiac care in our State. He personally provided local access to medical care for heart patients in rural communities across Eastern Washington and was a vital force in establishing higher standards for the care of cardiac patients. Bill risked his life for over 17 years driving through dangerous weather and road conditions to bring essential medical care to his patients living in remote parts of Eastern Washington. This dedication to his patients was also demonstrated by his efforts to continually improve the care he provided as a cardiologist.

Dr. Stifter was the first to achieve certification in using computed tomography, CT, in diagnosing and treating heart patients in our region. Without his leadership in this, the diagnostic attributes of the cardiac CT would not have been as readily available to patients in Eastern Washington. He was a leader in advancing cardiac care throughout his career; most recently leading the partnership of Lincoln Hospital, Sacred Heart Medical Center and MedStar towards adoption and implementation of the Level 1 AMI Emergency Program. This program has been recognized as the new standard for emergency treatment of cardiac patients across our State and is being broadly adopted. Because of his passion and leadership, the collaboration recently received a prestigious award from Qualis Health for Excellence in Healthcare Quality.

Bill's remarkable compassion and dedication to his fellow human beings continued through to the end of his life. In a tragic airplane accident in the frigid waters of Lake Chelan, Bill helped others get to safety at the price of his own life. His heroism and personal sacrifice at Lake Chelan are a testament to his integrity

and limitless commitment to helping his fellow human beings in need. He lived and breathed his passion of helping pioneer new standards of care for his patients and finding new ways to save lives up and until, tragically, his own death.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. William Stifter for the tremendous care he showed for all of the people of Eastern Washington. He will be missed.

AMERICORPS NCCC WESTERN REGIONAL CAMPUS GRADUATION 2008

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge 440 amazing young men and women that exemplify hope, dedication, and patriotism. Today, Class XIV graduates from the Western Regional Campus of the AmeriCorps NCCC program in Sacramento, California.

The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a full time residential national service program conducting national service efforts across the country. This program is truly one of a kind and is an incredibly valuable asset to our nation. These volunteers support the foundation of our country's infrastructure: our educational system, homeland security defenses, and disaster recovery efforts. Their compassion and hope is essential to our civil society.

In a year that saw devastating tornados, catastrophic floods, dangerous wildfires, and continued recovery efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, the Sacramento NCCC campus graduates contributed their hearts and hard work to helping their fellow citizens when those individuals needed it most.

NCCC participants learn invaluable life skills, but even more important, they learn the intangible value of service. How to pass that value along to others as engaging and organizing local volunteers is an essential part of the program's effectiveness.

In the past ten months, the 440 inspiring men and women of the Western Regional Campus have completed more than 350,000 hours of service nationwide. They have shaped lives by spending 30,000 hours tutoring nearly 10,000 elementary school students. They have given hope to those who need it most by assisting more than 46,000 families in the Gulf Coast, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Oregon, and by constructing 193 new homes with Habitat for Humanity. They have been on the front lines of disaster relief by responding to 12 wildfires in California, Arizona, and New Mexico. But perhaps most important, they have taught others the tools and value of service, leveraging more than 63,000 volunteers, nearly 150 for each program participant.

Madam Speaker, these young men and women from all across the country are a shining example of the benefits of National Service. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 440 graduates of the Sacramento Western Regional NCCC Campus for their hard work and invaluable service to their country. Congratulations Class XIV!

It is my sincere hope that our country's national service infrastructure will continue to

grow and engage thousands more in the experience of serving their communities and serving their country.

DR. MARK KUBALA

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor Dr. Mark Kubala, M.D., for being named Outstanding Neurosurgeon of the Year by the Texas Association of Neurological Surgeons, the latest in a long line of awards given to this extraordinary physician. The award was given to a man that has spent his life displaying excellence in his field and commitment to his community.

Dr. Kubala graduated from the University of Texas in 1955 as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honorary Society, considered one of the most prestigious American college honor societies. He received his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch—Galveston and served residencies at the Baylor College of Medicine and the Mayo Clinic. He has engaged in private practice in neurological surgery since 1966 and is Chief of Surgery at all three Beaumont hospitals.

Dr. Kubala has a long history of leadership. He has been a member of the Texas Medical Association since 1969 and has served as the Association's President, Speaker of the House of Delegates, and has served on numerous committees. He helped create the TMA Foundation, their philanthropic association, and served two terms as President. He served as President of the Texas Head & Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Foundation for 7 years. He also has the unique distinction of serving simultaneously on three different school boards in the 1970s. Dr. Kubala is a very busy man.

His honors are numerous, including the Texas Medical Association's 2006 Distinguished Service Award, their highest honor, for his tireless advocacy for patients and physicians at the local, state, and national level. His peers at the University of Texas Medical Branch—Galveston awarded him the Ashbel Smith Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was presented the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons in 1998 as well as the Dr. J.C. Crager Award for community service from the American Heart Association.

On behalf of the entire Second Congressional District of Texas I would like to congratulate Dr. Kubala on his latest award and thank him for his many years of service to the Southeast Texas Community.

IN HONOR OF KATHLEEN A.
REILLY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Aviation Electronics Technician First Class (AT1) Kathleen A. Reilly USN, upon her selection as Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year for 2007.

In these halls, Kathleen Reilly is better known as a professional staff member for the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. Kathleen has been the professional staffer on several committee CODELS on which I have participated. I have come to greatly respect and rely on her expertise, and have come to consider her a friend. Those of us who know her are not surprised Kathleen was chosen for this honor.

The Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year candidate is typified by sustained superior performance, proven leadership, a proven dedication to self improvement, outstanding professionalism and superior personal appearance. That sums up Kathleen pretty well.

Petty Officer Reilly is a native of Lexington, Massachusetts, and enlisted in the Navy on active duty in November 1988. She attended advanced electronics schools and reported to her first duty station as part of the Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron Two (VQ-2) at Rota, Spain. She was one of the first three women selected for airborne combat operations in support of Desert Shield/Storm. Her squadron's mission was to conduct airborne electronic reconnaissance to obtain information on areas and targets of naval and national interest. This tour gave Petty Officer Reilly her first experience with the ways our intelligence community supports our National Command Structure and she developed a reputation as someone who always gave the extra effort.

Following her tour in Spain, Petty Officer Reilly deployed onboard the USS *Abraham Lincoln* and later the USS *Nimitz*. She was the first female Navy Tactical Operations Instructor in her squadron. Kathleen was also selected as the first female Special Intelligence and Radar Operator in a Patrol Squadron supporting the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Special Operations Command.

These highly classified missions provided intelligence instrumental to maintaining our National Security. Kathleen has continued to prove her leadership skills during her current tour as one of the senior enlisted responsible for the safe load out and operations of cargo aircraft.

On the Intelligence Committee, Kathleen is responsible for overseeing budgets, programs, legislation and preparing funding for members assigned to the Intelligence Committee. Kathleen has been the monitor of the Military Intelligence Program and other intelligence community programs. Her military experience allows her to understand the dual nature of the nation's intelligence apparatus supporting military operations and policy decisions. Her oversight has been instrumental in providing the information necessary to establish, terminate and in some cases preserve military intelligence community programs vital to a balanced portfolio of intelligence capability.

Kathleen has earned numerous military awards, including two Air Medals, three Navy and Marine Corps Achievements, Enlisted Air Warfare Wings and, as a result of her selection as the Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year, is being meritoriously advanced to Chief Petty Officer. Mr. Speaker, we in the Congress are fortunate to have someone with Kathleen's abilities and professionalism as part of our professional staff. I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Chief Petty Officer Kathleen A. Reilly on her achievements and in thanking her for extraordinary service to her country.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SELECT AGENT PROGRAM AND BIOSAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008"

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today my colleague MIKE ROGERS of Michigan and I are introducing the House companion to a bill introduced by Senators BURR and KENNEDY—the Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act.

The bill will provide an important link in the chain of defenses needed to fight the potential threat of bioterrorism.

The bill reauthorizes and updates the Select Agent Program, which limits access to and controls the transfer of dangerous biological agents and toxins.

It requires the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the program, and recommend ways in which it can be restructured to enhance biosecurity and international scientific collaboration.

It requires that the program consider newly discovered agents—such as genetically modified organisms, synthetic compounds, and other agents identified in Homeland Security risk assessments—to ensure that the list of agents is current and comprehensive.

It encourages the sharing of information with state emergency planning officials, which is vital to ensuring that our first responders have the tools they need to prevent or respond to an attack.

And it ensures minimum biosecurity and biosafety standards for the training of workers in the laboratories that deal with the most dangerous substances.

These measures are of vital importance. Over the past several decades we have seen revolutions in technology, economics, and politics that are fundamentally changing the world we live in.

The upside of these developments is obvious. The world is more prosperous, healthy, and interconnected than it has ever been before. But with these revolutions also come challenges.

The same advances in biotechnology that help save lives, can also be used to develop dangerous biological agents and toxins that can take lives.

The new global information infrastructure that is now the backbone of our economy can be used to spread knowledge of how to create and disperse biological weapons.

It is more important than ever that the U.S. government be able to track and control the dangerous materials that can be used to construct these weapons. This bill will help that effort.

In closing, I'd like to say a special word about Senator KENNEDY. He has been a legislative hero of mine since my days working as a staffer on the Senate Judiciary Committee. He and Vicki are good friends, and are in my prayers.

Rep. ROGERS has amassed an impressive amount of knowledge on this subject, and will play a major role in securing its passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, on July 29, 2008, I was unavoidably absent from the House.

If I had been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 534, a motion by Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2490, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a pilot program for the mobile biometric identification in the maritime environment of aliens unlawfully attempting to enter the United States, as amended.

I would have also voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 535, a motion by Mr. DAVIS of Illinois to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 6113, a bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to require each agency to include a contact telephone number in its collection of information in order to assist people with filling out government forms.

Finally, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 536, a motion by Mr. HARE of Illinois to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2192, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an Ombudsman within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be inserted in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 531 on H.R. 5501, I mistakenly recorded my vote as "no" when I should have voted "yes." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD immediately following rollcall vote No. 531.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX FAIRNESS
ACT**HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker last week, I introduced legislation that will allow tens of millions of middle class taxpayers to keep more of their hard earned dollars. My Middle Class Tax Fairness Act will help Americans who are being squeezed by high gas prices, high grocery prices, the high cost of health care, and the high cost of college tuition.

It is unfair that hard-working Americans go to work every day and pay their taxes while corporations and the wealthy exploit loopholes in our tax code to avoid paying their fair share. That's not right—our tax system should be fair all around.

People's paychecks are not keeping pace with rising costs. In fact, the average household income is about \$800 less than it was just 5 years ago, while the price of gas has doubled in that same amount of time. All across southern Minnesota, people tell me of the challenges that they face in our weakening economy: choosing between medication or basic groceries because their paycheck doesn't accommodate both, or dipping into their savings accounts just to help pay for a tank of gas.

Meanwhile, our tax code is full of government waste and unnecessary give-aways to big corporations. Oil companies will receive an estimated \$13 billion in subsidies over the next 10 years, despite the fact that they are posting record-breaking profits. Foreign corporations that operate in the United States set up dummy headquarters in tax haven countries to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. But middle class Americans sure aren't getting those kinds of breaks.

It's time for a change. It's time to put hard-working families first. My Middle Class Tax Fairness Act will repeal these unnecessary and wasteful subsidies and close these tax loopholes. It provides a real tax break for middle class families by doubling the standard de-

duction for taxpayers for the next two years. This will provide an average tax cut of \$750 for 61 million taxpayers this year alone.

My legislation will also expand access to the Child Tax Credit, helping an estimated 13 million children who will either become newly eligible or receive increased benefits from the tax credit.

The Middle Class Tax Fairness Act will also help offset the rising cost of property taxes for millions of Americans by allowing taxpayers who take the standard deduction to lower their taxable income by taking their property taxes into account. This will benefit more than 32 million homeowners in the United States who did not receive a property tax deduction on their taxes.

Finally, my legislation will help pay down nearly \$60 billion of our national debt, to help address the fiscal mismanagement that has contributed to our stagnating economy.

A few days ago, I talked to a young woman in Rochester, Minnesota named Nicole. She's 29 years old and commutes twenty miles to work every day to her job as a legal assistant. Nicole and I estimated that under my proposed legislation, she would save \$832 on her 2008 taxes.

I also met with another couple, Diane and John. They have a six year-old daughter and recently purchased their own home. We figured that my Middle Class Tax Fairness Act would allow them to take advantage of the new property tax standard deduction and save them more than \$1,280 on their 2008 taxes.

These numbers may not be the billions of dollars that oil companies and foreign multinationals are used to saving on their taxes, but they represent real help for tens of millions of middle class Americans who are struggling to get by.

It's the easiest thing in the world for a politician to promise someone a tax cut. But it's much harder to do it in a fiscally responsible way that is paid for. My legislation does just that, and I urge my colleagues to help me in the effort by cosponsoring my Middle Class Tax Fairness Act.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 31, 2008 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

AUGUST 1

9 a.m.

Finance

Business meeting to consider S. 3038, to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to extend the adoption incentives program, to authorize States to establish a relative guardianship program, to promote the adoption of children with special needs, S. 1070, to amend the Social Security Act to enhance the social security of the Nation by ensuring adequate public-private infrastructure and to resolve to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and S. 1577, to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require screening, including national criminal history background

checks, of direct patient access employees of skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, and other long-term care facilities and providers, and to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and State background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or providers.

SD-215

9:30 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the employment-unemployment situation for July 2008.

SD-562

SEPTEMBER 18

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security Subcommittee

To hold an oversight hearing to examine bus safety.

SR-253